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## Police: Indict Netanyahu

By RAINE MARCUS and MICHAL YUDELMAN

The police team investigating the Bar-On Affair has recommended that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu be indicted, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani confirmed last night. The recommendations are that he be charged with fraud and breach of trust.

self. "I have no doubt whatsoever that the prime minister will have no problem with this affair and that he will emerge spotless," Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak said. This is the first time in the history of the state that the police has recommended the indictment of a prime minister. Netanyahu was questioned

under caution for four hours by the police team. He did not cooperate with his investigators, it was said at the time. Sources said the recommendation was based on the testimony given by several people. Earlier in the evening Netanyahu visited Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef for what was described as a "briefing in state affairs." The Bar-On Affair and its

implications did come up briefly at the meeting, during which Yosef presented Netanyahu with a Pessah Haggadah and expressed the wish that he would overcome all his enemies. Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri and Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, both of whom the police

Continued on Page 2



PM Benjamin Netanyahu gestures at a meeting with US special envoy Dennis Ross yesterday before he learned that the police had recommended he be indicted for his role in the Bar-On Affair. (Reuters)

### Police: Main witness was Avi-Yitzhak

By RAINE MARCUS

The police recommendations to indict Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, MK Aryeh Deri, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Avigdor Lieberman were based on a central witness's evidence, police revealed yesterday. This was contained in a letter police sent Tuesday to State Attorney Edna Arbel that was released yesterday.

According to a senior police source, the key witness is Dan Avi-Yitzhak, who was reportedly furious when he was not appointed attorney-general. Avi-Yitzhak was Deri's lawyer, and his candidacy as attorney-general was thwarted by Deri, since it would mean that Avi-Yitzhak would abandon his client in the middle of his fraud trial.

Avi-Yitzhak was cited by many as being the man who leaked the affair to Channel 1 three months ago. He has continually denied this, however.

"The recommendations are based on admissions by a main witness," said the letter, signed by National Investigations chief Cmdr. Sando Mazor and his deputy-Cmdr. Ya'acov Grossman. "His

credibility and our belief in him is critical in the ultimate conclusions. That is to say, whether the material will be filed away or will be used as a base for presenting indictments."

In spite of the very special circumstances which caused the launching of the investigation, the police team succeeded in gathering evidence which supports that of the main witness, the letter continued.

In addition to investigative material, police added 110 pages of findings, conclusions and recommendations, which in their opinion prove that crimes were committed.

"We are aware that the issue of filing indictments is a most sensitive and complicated one, especially while putting our faith in one main witness, who could be discovered to have his own interests and certain motives in implicating those recommended for indictment," read the letter.

It went on to say that police found "the witness" to be reliable.

"It is not easy to differentiate between legitimate political procedures and activities which border on criminal offenses," the letter added.

**Earthquake shakes political arena, Page 3**

Kahalani said that he wasn't briefed on the recommendations by Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz on Tuesday, but that he learned yesterday that Netanyahu was among those the police recommended be indicted.

Netanyahu said that he has no intention of resigning, and was meeting with his aides and advisers late last night.

Several Likud ministers, however, said that if Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel decided to indict him, Netanyahu would have no choice but to resign, in which case new elections for prime minister would have to be held. Other ministers said that the police recommendation itself is enough to oblige Netanyahu to suspend him-

### Ivry panel slams IAF norms

By ABRAHAM O'SULLIVAN

The air force general command is to be shaken up, the book on helicopter flight procedures rewritten, two veteran helicopter pilots are to be dismissed and a senior base commander reprimanded, as a result of the Ivry Report on the February 4 collision of two Yasur helicopters which killed 73 soldiers.

**Let air force lick its wounds, Page 2**

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai accepted all the commission's recommendations and instructed the IDF and the air force to start implementing them. He also instructed the Judge Advocate-General to review the commission's report to see whether anyone should be prosecuted.

OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu, who has been under pressure to resign from a number of the families of the 73 fallen, convened his branch commanders last night to review the report and see what steps need to be taken. He said a special body is to be set up in the General Staff to carry out the recommendations.

The commission of inquiry, headed by David Ivry, former OC Air Force and longtime director-general of the Defense Ministry, could not unequivocally determine what caused the two helicopters to collide. The committee met 37 times, heard 109 testimonies and reviewed more than 200 exhibits.

Speaking at a press conference at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, Ivry said the last seconds of the fatal flight remain a mystery. He said the soldiers in the CH-53 choppers ferrying them to their posts in south Lebanon were likely surprised and didn't know what hit them.

Ivry said the commission ruled out a technical malfunction, as well as the possibility of a soldier's hand grenade or other ammunition exploding on the CH-53. It also said the helicopters were not hit by any bullets. The

commission even ran an experiment to determine if the use of cellular phones would have caused the crash and determined that they had no effect.

Ivry also said there was no device yet available in the world that would warn helicopters of each other. **Continued on Page 2**

### Commission recommendations

**The Officers:**

• Brig.-Gen. Chaim Gofen, commander of the Tel Nof Air Base where the CH-53 squadrons are based, is to be reprimanded by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

• Lt.-Col. Amiram Lavi, commander of the CH-53 helicopter squadron, is to be dismissed from his squadron and not be given another command.

• Maj. Yaron Rosen, deputy commander of the CH-53 squadron, is to be relieved his command and not given another for a period of three years.

• Maj. Eyal Tam, operations officer for the south Lebanon regional brigade, is to be reprimanded by OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine.

**The Structure**

• A brigadier-general from the helicopter squadrons will be added to the air force general staff. This officer is to rewrite the combat doctrine for helicopters, determine and follow helicopter flight training, and set training limits. He is also to ensure lessons from operations and training are implemented and look after development and arming of the IAF helicopter forces.

**The Regulations**

• Helicopters ferrying troops to Lebanon will fly individually on separate flight paths. If more than one must fly, then one must be designated the formation leader, and they must fly at time intervals or keep safety distances between them.

• Proper and clear procedures on extinguishing aircraft lights are to be written and implemented.

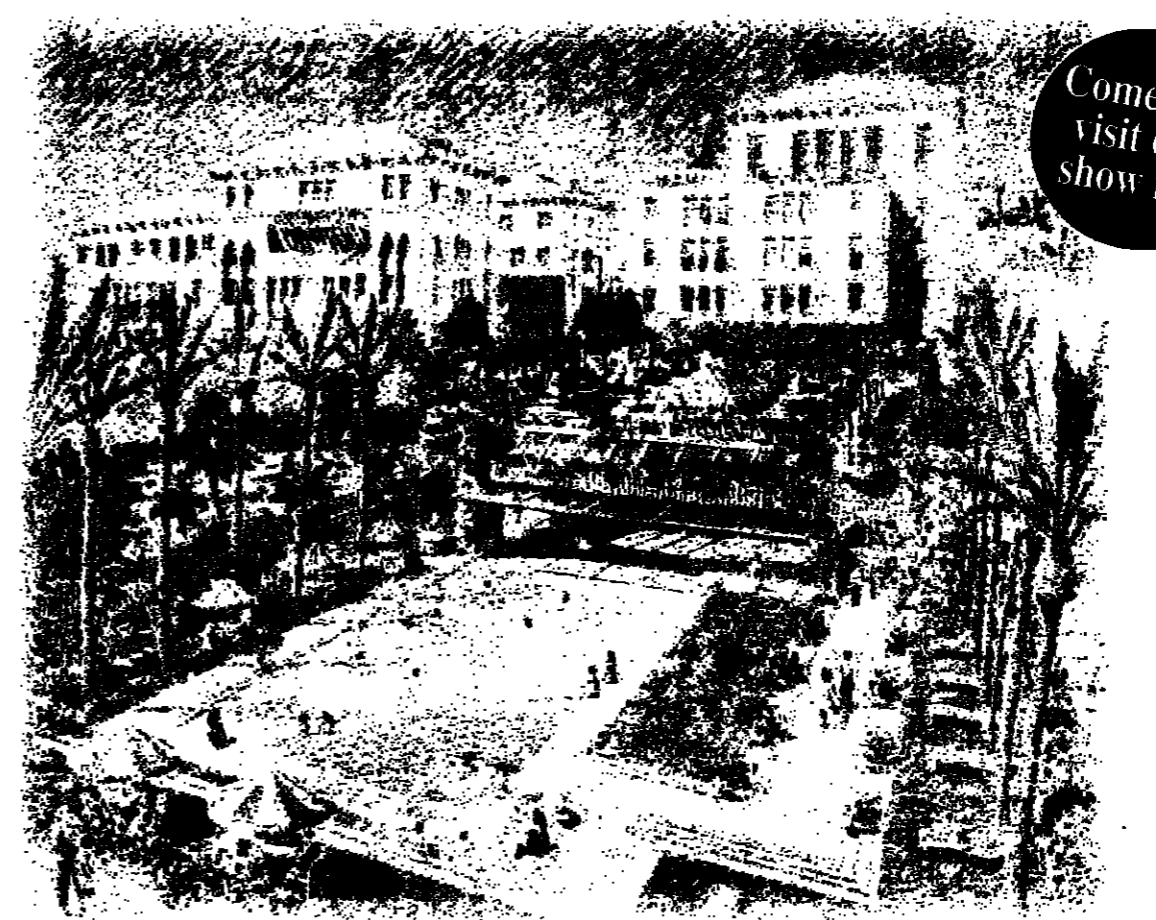
• The logistics infrastructure at the airstrip at Mahanayim will be upgraded and someone appointed to be responsible for making more efficient use of forces, equipment, and helicopters.

• Methods of lowering the burden on CH-53 squadron pilots and commanders are to be examined.

• Black boxes are to be installed in IAF helicopters and there will be more use of flight simulators for night training. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

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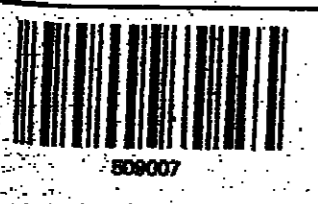
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# PM to Ross: No talks while terror

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and news agencies

US peace envoy Dennis Ross arrived here yesterday in an effort to restart peace negotiations, and met Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu before traveling to Gaza for talks with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Ross is scheduled to meet Netanyahu again today. He will also meet Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Ross is trying to hammer out a formula which will get the two sides back to the negotiating table and end the crisis which erupted with Israel's decision to start construction on Har Homa.

After a half-hour meeting with Netanyahu, Ross said: "We're obviously trying to find a way to put the peace process back on track. We have to find a way to ensure that violence isn't going to be part of it. We also have to find a way to move the process forward in a way which ensures that the hopes of each side can be realized and that we have a credible negotiating process."

The two did not discuss the proposal to advance the final status talks or the second pullback.

Netanyahu made it clear to Ross that only the cessation of terrorism would lead to the resumption of the negotiations.

Meanwhile, Arafat and Levy agreed yesterday to revive peace talks, at a meeting staged by the European Union at the Malta conference. Both declared a renewed readiness to seek peace.

For its part, the EU hailed their meeting as a crowning achievement after years of aiming for a more significant role for Europe in the US-led peace process.

Arafat's spokesman, Marwan Kanafani, said the Palestinian



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and US peace envoy Dennis Ross shake hands yesterday at their meeting in Jerusalem. (Reuters)

leader and Levy promised to "go back to the peace process."

"We did not, of course, resolve all the issues that are on our agenda [but] the atmosphere was good," Levy said.

However, Kanafani denied reports that Arafat agreed to renew security coordination. "We have no direct coordination except through the American side since Mr. Netanyahu ended political

coordination."

The Arafat-Levy meeting was the highest-level contact since the peace process stalled last month.

Levy said he did not commit to stopping the housing project, but said Arafat pledged to stamp out terrorism and violence.

"He [Arafat] said the fight against terrorism is an obligation," Arafat and Levy met on the sidelines of an economic conference of

the 15 EU foreign ministers and their counterparts from 12 Mediterranean neighbors.

Steve Rodan adds: Netanyahu suggested in an interview yesterday that Israel might lobby against US funding to the PA when the issue of PLO compliance to the Oslo accords comes for review in June. He denied that his government has stopped pro-Israel lobbyists from attempting to stop

funding to the PA until it complies with its agreements with Israel.

"We're not lobbying for the PLO," he said. "That funding is based totally on the compliance of the PLO to the Oslo agreements. When the next review comes up we'll say very clearly how they perform. We won't mince any words. My hope is that by that time they'll [Palestinians] change their behavior."

# Families of 'copter crash victims receive report

By DAN IZENBERG

The families of the soldiers killed in the helicopter crash at She'ar Yashuv will officially respond to the findings of the Ivry commission after a team of experts it has hired studies the entire document, Eli Ben-Shem, one of the organizers of the group, said yesterday.

Army officers fanned out at 5 p.m. to deliver a sealed envelope containing 12 pages of the 86-page report, including the preface, the conclusions and the recommendations of the commission, to each of the 73 families.

"We received absolutely nothing, a piece of paper," bereaved father Yehuda Rothenberg said later. He added that the families had decided not to react until they had studied the report.

After that, they will hold a press conference to express their views.

But other parents said they were satisfied with the report and the fact that it was delivered to them before being made public. "The commission did serious work," said Gad Levi. "I have confidence in it."

According to Ben-Shem, some of the bereaved parents who have received security clearance and the representative of the families on the Ivry commission will be allowed to study the bulk of the report which was classified for security reasons.

Ben-Shem also expressed confidence in the commission, and particularly its chairman, former air force commander and Defense Ministry director-general David Ivry. "We have a lot of faith in Ivry," he said. "He is an honest and

upright man and a bereaved father himself."

David Katz, who has a doctorate in aeronautical engineering, said the commission's findings tallied with his own assessment of the accident, including the problems with flight route planning, safety considerations and flight formation. "I also thought that the air force had not given enough consideration to its helicopter force," he said.

Levy, Ben-Shem and Katz expressed no particular satisfaction with the fact that the commission recommended punishing four officers for the accident, including the commander and deputy commander of the helicopter squadron and the base commander.

"I have no desire for revenge," said Levy. "I don't think the fact that I lost my son should influence the commission. I don't demand that anyone be punished just to assuage my own pain. We have to be careful about attacking army officers. This is our one and only army and air force."

Katz said the army will have a lot of work on its hands in the wake of the report. "There are many conclusions and recommendations that must be implemented," he said. "If they ignore the findings and fail to take the appropriate action, it will be very bad. But I believe that will not happen because of the stature of the commission."

The bereaved families plan to establish an association to deal with their collective problems, such as social benefits and the commemoration of their loved ones.

# Poll: Most Palestinians would accept limited state

By JON IMMANUEL

A new survey indicates that a majority of Palestinians accept the establishment of a Palestinian state in less than all the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but Jerusalem remains the most intractable problem.

The still unpublished survey, conducted by the Nablus-based Palestinian Center for Research and Studies April 10-12, asked 1,334 interviewees questions on the six aspects of the Yossi Beilin-

Mahmoud Abbas plan without mentioning their origin, said director Khalil Shikaki.

Support for the plan as a package was 43 percent for, 52% against. This compares with a survey last month which asked the questions as phrased in Israeli views of the plan, and support there was 20% for and 77% against.

Support on each question was generally 4% higher in Gaza than in the West Bank.

The questions asked were:

1. Do you support the establishment of a state in 95% of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the right to self-defense, but with restrictions on types of arms? 52% said yes, 45% no. The March poll, which substituted "most" for "95%" and demilitarized the state, 16% said yes, 83% no.

2. Do you accept a mutual exchange of land by which Israel would annex 5% of the West Bank as a settlement bloc, with the Palestinian state receiving an equal amount of land in exchange? 32% for, 63% against. (In the March poll, which called for Israel annexing most settlements, it was 18% for and 79% against.)

3. May settlers in the Palestinian state live as individuals in peace under Palestinian Authority? 48% for, 49% against. (The identical question received identical response in March poll.)

4. Refugees have the right to return to the Palestinian state only, but a small number to be agreed upon number will be agreed upon may return to Israel. Those who do not return will be compensated, and the right of return as a theoretical right will remain. 55% for, 42% against. (The March poll, which did not include a right of return to Israel, was 44% for and 52% against.)

5. Israeli forces will withdraw from the state, but a limited agreed upon number will stay in specific locations, for a limited duration. Joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols along the Jordan River. 42% for, 53% against. (The March poll, which did not mention joint patrols or limited duration, was supported by 8%, opposed by 87%.)

6. Jerusalem would be open for all Palestinian citizens, but remain united under Israeli control. Sovereignty over east Jerusalem would be negotiated later by a special committee. City boundaries to be expanded to include new Jewish and Arab areas and a Palestinian municipality established in Arab areas linked to the PA administratively, functionally, and with regard to security. Understanding that Arab areas would subsequently revert to Palestinian sovereignty. Meanwhile, the capital of the Palestinian state would be established outside the existing municipal boundaries. Moslem and Christian holy places would come under Palestinian rule. 27% for, 68% against. (The March poll, which mentioned only a Palestinian capital outside current municipal border and control over holy places, was supported by 9%, opposed by 89%.)

The apparent anomaly in the responses to questions 1 and 2, even though 2 actually offers Palestinians more, stems from the fact that question 1 emphasizes the establishment of a state, while question 2 emphasizes Israeli annexation of land.

"This indicates the importance of packaging poll and possibly negotiation questions in a certain way," Shikaki said.

All answers add up to 100% when those with "no opinion" are included, and the margin of error is 3%. Shikaki said.

In the same poll support for the current peace process is 60%, almost an all-time low.

## COMMENT

### Let the air force lick its wounds

By ABIEH O'SULLIVAN

Now that the inquiry into the helicopter collision is complete, the punishments recommended and the suggested steps promised to be taken, the Israel Air Force needs to be left alone so it can focus totally on its supreme task of defending the state.

No doubt, some grieving parents and other interested bodies, who suspect the IDF of whitewashing its mistakes, may go to the Supreme Court seeking the

heads of more senior IAF commanders.

The public confidence in the vaunted IAF took a blow on Feb. 4. After all, it was the worst disaster in the history of the IDF. But if the public starts going after the IAF, there is no telling where it will lead. Accountability is vital for success. But it does have a limit somewhere along the ladder of command and, despite the heavy cost of the accident, it would be a strategic error to lop off the heads which the state has

invested decades in training and untold millions of shekels nurturing to lead one of the best air forces in the world.

Lt.-Col. Amiram Lavi, the CH-53 squadron commander, is to be dismissed and will likely leave the air force. His lawyer said he was not sure who was being punished, since the state was losing a devoted pilot. But patriotism aside, the Ivry inquiry decided that the country is better off with one less incompetent squadron commander. And that is enough.

## INDICT

Continued from Page 1

also recommended be indicted, were also present.

Deri said afterward that despite the police recommendations, he is certain there will be no indictments and the whole thing will end in nothing.

Lieberman said yesterday that he would resign if indicted. Several cabinet ministers called the police decision to recommend indicting Netanyahu, in addition to Deri, Lieberman and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, "an earthquake," and some said "this is the end of the government."

Netanyahu's lawyer Ya'acov Weiroth, who before the recommendations were confirmed, described the reports as "false rumors" told *The Jerusalem Post* that "this is a catastrophe for the legal system."

"I have no other comment to make since I have not seen the documents pertaining to the recommendations and am not privy to police material. Seemingly, the police have already given their verdict on the matter," he said. "This is not a coincidental act, but a tendentious one aimed at putting pressure on the state attorney to

dictate Netanyahu."

Netanyahu will be summoned for questioning again soon, to complete the investigation, added Weiroth.

Arbel and Rubinstein conducted marathon discussions yesterday to consolidate all the material from the investigation. While on Tuesday they opposed the publishing of the police recommendations, last night they phoned Hefetz to say that the findings should be published as soon as possible in view of the leak to the press. They said earlier that they intend to publish their recommendations concerning indictments on Sunday.

Arbel said that the findings of the investigations are "a certificate of honor for the police. At the end of the day, I am sure that everyone will be convinced of this."

Speaking in a television interview, former internal security minister Moshe Shahal said that it is untrue that police recommendations carry no weight.

"The officers in the police team are the best experts and their rec-

ommendations are very significant," he said. "This news has hit us like an earthquake and the recommendation is a precedent in the history of the state. The prime minister is not like an ordinary citizen who is innocent until proved guilty." Shahal also referred to Hanegbi, saying he was the second justice minister to be suspected of criminal offenses. "This has reached a level beyond the legal one," he added. "This has reached a public level."

Steve Rodan adds: Earlier in the day, Netanyahu said that he will not suspend any official in his government whose indictment in connection with the Bar-On Affair has been recommended by police.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Netanyahu said he has not changed his view that the allegations that Roni Bar-On was appointed attorney-general as part of a deal to obtain the support of Shas leader Aryeh Deri are baseless.

Full interview on Monday, April 21.

## IVRY

Continued from Page 1

approaching aircraft, in order to prevent mid-air collisions.

The committee also included Maj.-Gen. (res.) Amos Yaron, a former OC Manpower, Maj.-Gen. (res.) Ben-Zion Farhi, former president of the military court of appeals, Brig.-Gen. (res.) Shmuel Eldar, a veteran helicopter pilot, and retired judge Chaim Shapira.

They handed their 86-page report to Mordechai yesterday afternoon. Excerpts of the report were then delivered to all 73 families of the fallen. Copies were also given to President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, speaking at the press conference, vowed to do everything possible to prevent further accidents. But he also expressed full support for the air force. A representative of the bereaved families was allowed to observe the investigation and view all documents.


Only a 12-page excerpt of the report was released to the public. Ivry stressed that there was no link between the faults uncovered in their investigation and the helicopter crash.

The report mainly focused on ensuring that safety precautions are taken and less on pinning the blame for the crash on anyone.

Nevertheless, the Ivry commission recommended that disciplinary actions be taken against four officers.

Brig.-Gen. Chaim Gofen, commander of the Tel Nof Air Base where the CH-53 squadrons were based, is to be reprimanded. Squadron commander Lt.-Col. Amiram Lavi is to be dismissed without the possibility of ever assuming a commanding role. His deputy, Maj. Yaron Rosen, is also to be dismissed and kept from command for three years. Maj. Eyal Tam, operations officer for the south Lebanon regional brigade is to be reprimanded for mix-ups involving the flight roster.

Gofen was not allowed to publicly react to the Ivry report, but his attorney, Eli Zohar, said the reprimand would not likely chip Gofen's wings and he could continue to be promoted in the air force and IDF.



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Member of its International Board of Directors and  
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Sincere condolences to his wife Rosel,  
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Tomorrow, 11 Nissan 5757, marks one year since the  
passing of our beloved and greatly missed aunt

**SADIE (Sara) WILKINSON**

Due to construction work on the site of the grave, the  
setting of the tombstone is postponed, and will be  
announced at a later date.

Her loving nieces  
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**ERIK B. BLUMENFELD**  
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## High Court rejects terrorist's petition

The High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition by detained Hamas terrorist Iman Kafisha against the General Security Service's use of force to elicit a confession during interrogation.

The court accepted the state's position that although there is a law prohibiting this, GSS interrogators are entitled to employ "special methods" if state security and human lives are at stake. Kafisha was a key member of the Hamas cell arrested recently in Kfar Tzurif for murdering 12 Israelis, including Staff-Sgt. Sharon Edri.

Meanwhile, security forces last night began demolishing the Kfar

Tzurif home of another of the six-member Hamas cell, Ibrahim Ranimat.

Irim

**The Ministry of the Interior**  
Tender No. 4/97

**Request for Proposals (RFP)**  
The Ministry of the Interior has decided to prepare a policy plan, for a combined

**National Outline Scheme and Document of Principles for Building and Development - NOS 35.**

This RFP is addressed to those interested in submitting a detailed work plan proposal, in accordance with the RFP specifications, which may be purchased for a fee of NIS1,200, from Mr. Yosef Grinzweig, Director of Facilities, the Ministry of the Interior, Room 105, 2 Kaplan Street, Kiryat Ben Gurion, Jerusalem, from Tuesday, April 29, 1997, until Thursday, May 15, 1997, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The final date of submission is Sunday, June 22, 1997, at 12 noon.

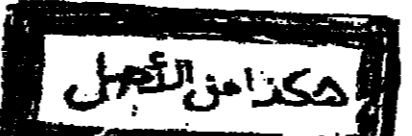
All questions regarding the RFP should be submitted in Hebrew only, as should all proposals. They should be sent by fax to 02-5670 617 (Tel. 02-6701 452), Attention Ms. Dina Rachevsky.

## SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Hillel, Robyn, and Yossi Kutler of Washington, D.C., proudly announce the arrival of Gil Raanan on Friday, April 11, 1997.

## CORRECTION

Gerald Steinberg was misquoted in yesterday's In Context. He said Nahum Manbar may have drawn his inspiration from the Iran-Contra arms deals of the 1980s, and not as reported.



IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

# Bar-On Affair and the law

Disregard all the hype, hoopla and political drama surrounding the Bar-On Affair, and what is left are two cardinal questions with which Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel will have to grapple. Where does normative political horse trading end and criminal blackmail begin? And is it a crime for a minister to lie to the cabinet?

According to press reports, the police have recommended that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, and Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman be charged for breach of trust for their roles in the Bar-On Affair, and have also recommended that MK Aryeh Deri be indicted for blackmail and threats.

It has become self-evident, over the last three months, that the prestige and future of both Netanyahu and his government, as well as the credibility of the press — especially Israel Television, which broke the story — hang in the balance.

But the manner in which the police have let it be known that they recommended indicting the four central players in the drama has added that institution to the public bodies whose prestige is very much at stake.

According to Hebrew University political scientist Avi Diskin, whose specialty is the Israeli political system, if Attorney-General Rubinstein decides not to press on with an indictment, or if the indictment is thrown out in the courts, the police will risk being seen as



Aryeh Deri (left) and Tzahi Hanegbi (Issac Harari and Flash 90)

overly eager to press charges against politicians, especially if they are on the political Right. Diskin cited the recent case against Rafael Eitan for using classified military information against a political foe, a case tossed out of court as the most recent example of a string of indictments against politicians that led nowhere.

And the cases in the Bar-On Affair are far from cut-and-dried, said Yoav Dotan, a lecturer on public law at Hebrew University.

"That an action is taken as part of coalition politics does not mean that it may not be a crime," said Dotan, referring to the allegations that Deri hinged his participation in the government, or his support for the Hebron agreement, on the appointment of Bar-On. "Coalition politics does not bring immunity in the eyes of the law. But the broader question is to what extent the criminal law

should become involved in this activity."

If Deri, as alleged, wanted to appoint Roni Bar-On as attorney-general because he thought he was "one of us" and would be receptive to granting a favorable plea bargain, it is fundamentally different than the regular coalition give and take that precedes all senior political appointments. Diskin said this would be tantamount to "Deri wanting to appoint his own judge."

Yet that Deri actually did this will be difficult to prove, Dotan said, because — barring proof of a straight deal between Bar-On and Deri — it is a question of motivation: Why would Deri want Bar-On? If there were a straight deal between the two men, then Bar-On would also have to be indicted, something that does not appear in the offering.

Netanyahu's lawyer, Ya'acov Weinroth, alluded in an Israel

Radio interview yesterday to other possible reasons that Deri would want a Bar-On appointment, namely that he just wanted to keep his own lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, out of the attorney-general's job.

"Let's say that Aryeh Deri was very angry that they were taking his lawyer, Avi-Yitzhak, a man who newspaper reports said was being paid millions of dollars, and that he [Deri] was furious, boiling, yelled, and went crazy. Is that extortion and threats?"

While there may not be precedents in Israeli politics of a politician trying to interfere in a legal appointment for his own personal gain, as Deri allegedly did, Diskin said that regarding the allegations against Hanegbi — that he misrepresented the Bar-On appointment to the cabinet — this would not be the first time a cabinet minister did not tell his colleagues everything.

"It is ridiculous to think this was the first time a minister has not told the cabinet the whole truth," he said.

Dotan added: "If a cabinet member lies to the others, is this a matter for criminal law to be involved in? Technically you can say it is breach of trust. But was the criminal law designed to deal with this type of scenario? In politics, there is an alternative mechanism of correction. The first is to expose the lies. Then the public decides whether it wants this type of person in this position. Should the law get involved?"

Exactly the question the country is waiting for Rubinstein and Arbel to answer.

# An earthquake shakes the political arena

By SARAH HONIG

The political arena was shaken yesterday by reports of a police recommendation that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu be indicted in the Bar-On Affair.

The immediate reaction in the coalition was to try to find out if the simultaneous reports by both TV channels on their prime time news programs were accurate. The opposition lost no time in demanding that early elections be called.

"If the reports are accurate, it is a political earthquake," Ilim quoted Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres as saying before the police confirmed them. "The prime minister should suspend himself immediately and new elections must be called."

It was clear that Netanyahu is confident in his innocence and that no one around him expected that he would be considered for an indictment.

Moreover, a source close to Netanyahu said that "the recommendation is incredibly outrageous considering the fact that nothing at all is left of the original Bar-On for Hebron allegation and the charge that Bar-On would allow a plea bargain for [Shas MK Aryeh] Deri. It appears there is an attempt to ascribe felonious intent and character to common political considerations that are only natural and unavoidable in any political setting, and which were so in the past and will continue to be so in the future."

The source categorically denied rumors that Netanyahu is planning to call new elections in the event he is indicted. "No such discussions were held, and nothing like this was even considered," he said. "Netanyahu knows he is totally

clean here."

But around Netanyahu there was a great deal of repressed anger at what were termed "continuing tendentious leaks" from the police. Some went so far as to charge that certain elements in the police are out to get Netanyahu.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan — who himself had been recently the subject of a police investigation which resulted in an indictment, but which was swiftly dismissed by the court — argued that "the police is tainted with political bias... Anything which comes out of the police must be treated very carefully and with huge grains of salt, and particularly those leaks which are not done innocently."

"In my own case only hours before I was unequivocally cleared by the court, the police continued relentlessly to leak against me. I was told that they were instructed to keep interrogating me even if it were patently obvious that there was nothing of substance there. It is time these things were said. I had kept silent for too long."

The Labor Party charged that "the prime minister is seeking to pressure the police and intimidate the prosecution. This is a brutal attempt to obstruct justice."

In a gathering of his allies at party headquarters in Tel Aviv yesterday, MK Ehud Barak, the leading candidate for the Labor Party leadership, called on Netanyahu to step down immediately. He said "For the first time in the history of Israel, the police have recommended indicting a prime minister for breach of trust. We are again facing a difficult test. I hope we will pass this test while preserving the principles of democracy and the law."

Barak talked of "a corrupt government which must be brought down — the sooner the better — and which definitely should not be joined."

He urged all "ministers with a conscience" to resign immediately from this "tainted government, so that its days would be shortened."

Another leadership candidate, Yossi Beilin, urged Labor to launch "an unequivocal public campaign against the prime minister, with the aim of bringing him down."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid demanded, even before last night's revelation that Netanyahu was among those the police recommended be indicted, that he resign now and that new elections be called.

Meretz MK Ran Cohen announced he will summon into session the Knesset State Control Committee, which he chairs, in an attempt to get it to demand the establishment of a state inquiry commission. He asked that all the material collected by the investigators be turned over to him, and that the police recommendations be published in full.

Netanyahu, Hanegbi, and Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman must be suspended immediately, Cohen declared.

Lieberman, according to several Likud sources, has been saying that, if indicted, he will step down, though he continues to believe that he is blameless. The police apparently fault Lieberman for having reported Deri's alleged threats to Netanyahu.

Hanegbi, maintain the same Likud sources, will not give in easily, even if indicted. He too believes he committed no crime and will take his case to the High Court if need be, to get a possible indictment repealed.

## ANALYSIS

### Stigma is here to stay

By SARAH HONIG

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu tried to behave as if nothing unusual had taken place last night. He extended a long-scheduled call to MK Aryeh Deri, with a scheduled pre-Pessah call on Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

While it is hard to picture them not discussing the affair which has them both embroiled, the word from the participants was that it never came up.

Nonetheless, Netanyahu was hit hard when both TV stations reported on their evening news shows that the police had recommended that he be indicted. The fact that it happened when

and where it did proves that it was a deliberate leak, probably by someone in the police.

Netanyahu was reportedly reeling from the blow. A source close to him said that he honestly believes he did nothing wrong and that a recommendation for an indictment was the last thing he thought likely. This, then, could call to question his other suppositions in the case, including that the prosecution will reject the police recommendations.

Why were the recommendations leaked? In both the Likud and Labor it was agreed that this puts a very heavy burden on

State Attorney Edna Arbel. The public furor will not make it easy for her to avoid putting all those mentioned on trial.

Thus the leaks alter the situation and put Netanyahu in far deeper trouble than he has ever been in.

Even if he is not indicted, the impression that he got his hands dirty will have been fixed in the public mind and the opposition can be relied on to make sure that the message will repeated over and over. From now on, the four recommended for indictment will be haunted by the fact that the police judged them guilty.

### The process of impeaching a prime minister

By BATSHEVA TSUR

According to the Basic Law: Government, an indictment cannot be brought against the prime minister without the consent of the attorney-general. Paragraph 25 (a) reads: A criminal investigation will not be opened against the prime minister, without the consent of the attorney-general and an indictment will not be brought against the prime minister except by the attorney general.

Clause (b) of the same paragraph states that such an indictment has to be heard by the Jerusalem District Court — with a panel of three judges. They are empowered to rule whether there has been a felony involving dishonor.

Clause (c) reads: Should the court convict the prime minister of a felony, it will decide in its verdict whether the felony involves dishonor.

According to paragraph 26 (a), the Knesset may, by a decision of a majority of its members, remove the prime minister from office if he has been convicted of a felony involving dishonor.

The decision on impeaching the prime minister is taken in two stages — first, by a majority of members of the Knesset House Committee, which must convene within 30 days of the court's verdict.

If it decides to remove the prime minister from office, its recommendation has to be brought before the Knesset plenum, which also has to decide by a majority vote.

The law stipulates that the prime minister must be given a chance to bring his case before both the committee and the plenum.

In the event of a decision to remove the prime minister from office, the law says, special elections will be held.

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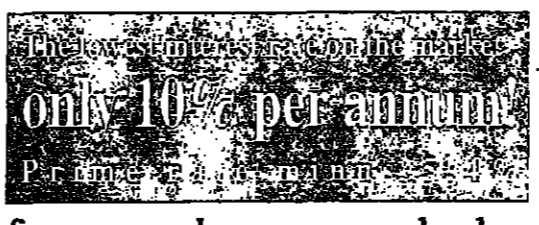
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**NOTICE**  
Offices of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization will be closed during **Hol Hamo'ed Pessah**, from **Wednesday, April 23, 1997 until Sunday, April 27, 1997**.  
Information centers for new immigrants will be open during **Hol Hamo'ed**, except on Friday and the Holiday Eve, as follows:

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Haifa - 191 Rehov Hamaginin	Tel. 04-851-0401 Tel. 04-851-0351	8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Acre - 3 Rehov Weizmann	Tel. 04-981-2483	8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Be'er Sheva - 1 Rehov Henrietta Szold	Tel. 07-629-5891 Tel. 07-629-5897	7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Jerusalem - 3 Rehov Ben Shetah	Tel. 02-4246622 Tel. 02-823-1823	8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
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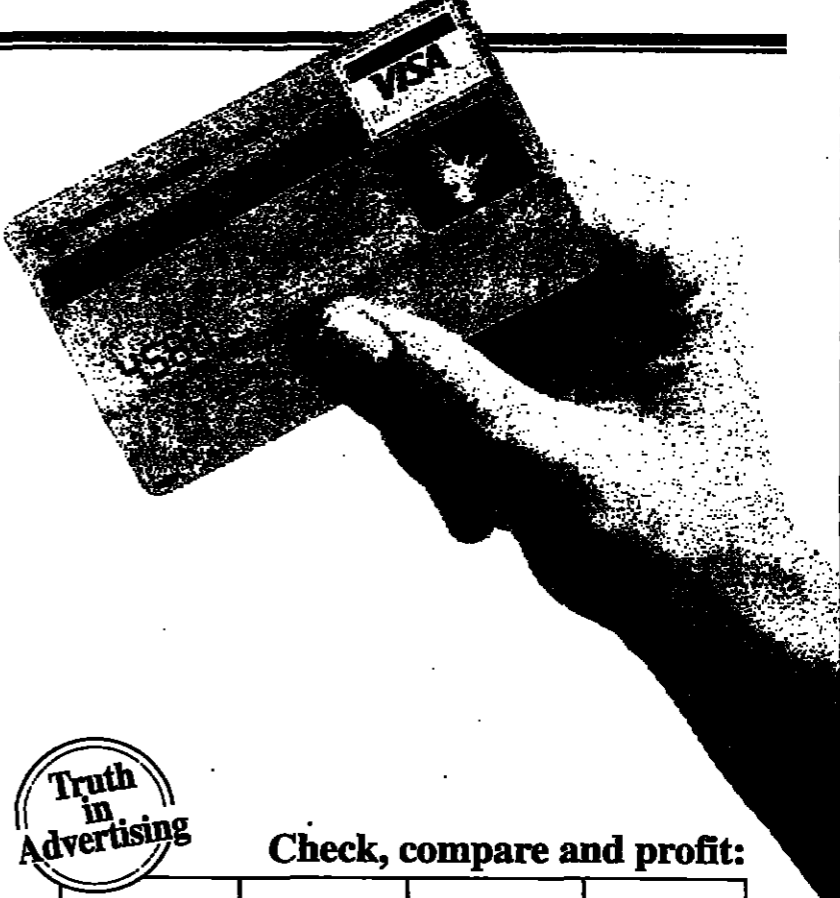
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# Haj pilgrims move to Mt. Arafat after fire

News agencies

MINA, Saudi Arabia — Chanting and clad in white robes, some 2 million pilgrims headed to Mount Arafat yesterday, leaving behind in the plain below the charred remains of their tent city but carrying the memory of a fire that killed 500 fellow Moslems.

Chants of "At thy service O Lord, at thy service" thundered through the valley as they moved like a huge white wave up the mountain, where Islam's prophet Mohammed delivered his last sermon shortly before his death in 632 CE.

By ritual, every pilgrim must arrive at Arafat by midday to stand silently in prayer with the rest. It is the climax of the haj, or pilgrimage, which every Moslem who can afford it must perform once in a lifetime.

The stand on Mount Arafat is a symbolic forerunner of doomsday, when Moslems believe every human will rise from the grave and stand before God in white burial shrouds to be judged.

On their way from the holy city of Mecca to Arafat, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims rest on the plain of Mina, a sprawling tent city

where part of the haj rituals are carried out.

On Tuesday, those rituals were marred by a deadly fire.

The official death toll stands at 217, but witnesses said they saw at least 300 bodies.

"More victims are dying in the hospitals so an accurate death toll is not yet possible," said a journalist at Mina, who refused to be identified.

The fire destroyed 70,000 tents, forcing hundreds of thousands to spend the night without shelter on the Mina plain outside Mecca, Islam's holiest city. The fire was blamed on exploding canisters of cooking gas which are used by the pilgrims to cook.

More than 1,290 pilgrims also were injured.

The Israeli foreign ministry yesterday issued a statement expressing "the sorrow of the government and people of Israel following the tragic fire in Mecca in which hundreds of believers lost their lives while fulfilling a religious commandment of the highest importance."

The statement said Israelis "send their condolences and wish a speedy and complete recovery to the injured."

"We are facing a chaotic situation here," M.H. Ansari, the Indian ambassador, was quoted as saying by Press Trust of India. He said 100 Indians were killed in the fire. Most of the other victims were believed to be Pakistanis and Bangladeshis, many of them elderly, witnesses said. Some were trampled to death as pilgrims fled the fire.

Ahmad Lehari, director of haj affairs at the Pakistani consulate in Jeddah, said that he had not received the death toll for Pakistanis by yesterday, but official and newspaper reports from Pakistan said that as many as 60 may have perished.

"Every pilgrim is dressed in identical white robes, so it's been very hard to distinguish nationalities," he said by cellular phone from Mina.

The Saudi Interior Ministry said that more than 1.1 million pilgrims had arrived in the kingdom for the haj. They will join nearly an equal number of worshippers from inside the kingdom.

A large crowd of Moslems held another rally against the United States and Israel at the haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia yesterday, defying a Saudi ban, Iranian state media said.



Anxious Moslems wait for news about their relatives at a New Delhi government office coordinating the annual haj to Saudi Arabia, where at least 200 pilgrims were killed in a massive fire. (Reuters)

Teheran radio said pilgrims chanted "Death to Israel" and "Death to America" near Mount Arafat. There was no independent confirmation of the report or reaction from Saudi Arabia.

Iran earlier said pilgrims had held their first "disavowal of infidels" rally on Monday in Mecca despite the Saudi ban against all political activities during haj. There was no word from Saudi Arabia on the

reported demonstration. Iran has said some 72,000 Iranians were performing haj this year. Teheran said there were no casualties among its pilgrims in the fire. Tense relations between

Saudi Arabia and Iran usually take a turn for the worse over the staging of the rally during the annual haj, which reached its climax yesterday with two million Moslems attending.

## Greek troops land in Albania

News agencies

TIRANA — The first Greek troops in a multi-national force safeguarding humanitarian aid in chaotic Albania arrived at Tirana airport yesterday and headed for the rebel-held southern port of Vlore, officials said.

"One hundred and twenty soldiers, mainly infantry, are coming today. Two military aircraft have landed so far. Another four planes are expected later," said Dimitris Moustaklis, a spokesman at the Greek embassy said.

In Athens, defence ministry sources said the soldiers were flown in C-130 planes from the northern city of Salonika to Tirana and the navy ship *Samos* sailed with another 130 troops.

The *Samos*, which is also carrying tanks, is expected to reach Vlore tomorrow.

Greece, concerned with the crisis on its northern border, has pledged about 700 men to the Italian-led eight-nation force of 6,000 soldiers.

The rest of the Greek troops will leave for Albania in the next few days, defence sources in Athens

said.

Its mission is to protect the distribution of much-needed aid to the small Balkan state, which has been rocked by violence since the collapse of fraudulent investment schemes earlier this year.

Some 300 people have been killed and 700 injured in several weeks of armed anarchy and banditry in Europe's poorest nation.

Meanwhile, Albania's justice minister said yesterday it would be impossible to disarm the population in time for the general election in June.

Spartak Ngjela told a meeting with international mediator Franz Vranitzky that the government should nevertheless make it an offence to possess weapons during the voting period in an effort to ensure calm and order.

"The population is almost entirely armed today. It is impossible to disarm the population...in two months," he said.

Ngjela recommended that a new electoral law, which must be draft-



A Greek soldier gets a goodbye kiss before departing for Tirana. (AP)

ed ahead of the vote, should try to regulate possession of guns looted from state armories in a widespread insurrection.

He said a specific chapter should be included in the law stating that "a person found in possession of weapons in the city from such a date to such a date will be punished."

## Former Zaire PM flees to Switzerland

News agencies

GENEVA — Switzerland said yesterday that former Zairean prime minister Kengo wa Dondo, who is wanted in his capital Kinshasa, had entered the country but could not say whether he was still there.

Foreign ministry spokeswoman Yasmine Chaila said Kengo, who had a valid Swiss visa, had recently arrived in Switzerland.

"We know that he (Kengo) entered Switzerland in the last couple of days," she said. "But we don't know whether he's still in Switzerland." A spokesman at Geneva's international airport said he had no information on Kengo flying into the city.

Earlier yesterday, Belgium said it had recently issued a new six-month visa to the former prime minister but a foreign ministry spokesman in Brussels said Kengo's current whereabouts

were not known.

Zaire Information Minister Kikye Mulumba said on Tuesday his country was issuing an international arrest warrant for Kengo after Zaire's new government team had found the national treasury empty. Kengo was voted out of office three weeks ago.

Kengo has been widely accused of weakness in dealing with the Tutsi-dominated rebels fighting to topple Zaire's cancer-stricken leader Mobutu Sese Seko.

Switzerland, embarrassed over Mobutu's long stay in Lausanne late last year during which he underwent cancer treatment, said after he left in November that it had denied him a re-entry visa.

In Kisangani, UN officials said an airlift of 100,000 Rwandan refugees from the Zairian jungle to their homeland will begin tomorrow whether or not Zairian rebels give last-minute approval of the logistics.

About 80 children will be the first to be flown to the eastern city of Goma, and then across the border into Rwanda, UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman Paul Stromberg said.

"After that, we'll continue flying the general population who are in good shape," Stromberg said.

The airlift will be the biggest in history of UN operations in Africa. The rebels who control eastern Zaire also are eager to have refugees go home, but are concerned about bringing refugees to the airports of rebel-controlled Kisangani. They fear the refugees may bolt into the regional hub and strain its resources.

The UNHCR is setting a transit center on the city's outskirts, about 25 km from the nearest camps. There, at Lula, refugees would be processed before being trucked to the airports, Stromberg

said. The rebels agreed to the airlift, but their approval was still pending on details of the transit center, he said.

"If we don't get the permission, we'll have to deal without it. But we're starting Friday," Stromberg said.

From Kisangani, 2,000 people a day would be flown aboard three UN aircraft to Goma, on the Rwandan border.

The 100,000 Hutus are among remaining Rwandan refugees in central Africa from among hundreds of thousands of Hutus who fled their country in 1994 after the Hutu government-sanctioned genocide of a half-million Tutsis. Aid workers estimate that another 200,000 Rwandan refugees are still missing in Zaire.

Many of Hutus, especially the defeated government troops and Hutu militants, had refused to return, fearing retribution from the new Tutsi-run government.

## British judge campaigns against wife's ex-lover

LONDON (AP) — A retired judge whose wife and two step-daughters were seduced by former defense minister Alan Clark has arrived from South Africa to campaign in national elections against the confessed philanderer.

"This is nothing to do with any vendetta or anything of that kind... I have forgiven Alan Clark," James Harkess, a lifelong Conservative Party voter, said in a TV interview yesterday before setting out to campaign for Clark's Labor Party rival.

Clark, Conservative candidate in London's wealthy Kensington and Chelsea district, mentioned the simultaneous affairs with Valerie Harkess, now 59, and her daughters, Alison

39, and Josephine, 37, in his diaries.

He called them "the coven" in the best-seller, published in 1993.

Clark, 69, certain to win the country's most solidly Conservative district, reiterated yesterday he was sorry about the affairs, which took place some 20 years ago.

"Well, that's very generous of him and very Christian of him," Clark said of Harkess' expression of forgiveness. "I don't like talking about it. It's very, very old." Clark, a millionaire, retired from the House of Commons in 1992.

He wrote the diaries packed with allusions to a string of love affairs and unflattering descriptions of political colleagues — and then wished

he'd never left the Commons.

Local party activists in Kensington and Chelsea recently picked Clark for the coveted nomination after dumping the previous legislator who was rumored to have a drink problem.

Clark's wife, Jane, who has stuck with him through a colorful career, accompanies him on the elegant streets of Kensington as he campaigns for the May 1 election.

"People think I am a sex maniac," *The Times* yesterday quoted Clark as complaining. "I just told the truth (in the diaries)."

"I won't say anything about it," he was quoted of the Harkess affairs. "I won't ever split on the girls, despite everything."



The Ministry of Science

### The Program for Developing Scientific and Technological Infrastructure 1997

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- \* Communications
- \* Parallel and distributed systems
- \* Computer vision and image processing

Detailed information on areas of priority, conditions applying to submission of applications, budgetary details and forms are available at the research authorities of the research institutes and at the Ministry of Science. Proposals must be submitted to the Ministry of Science on the appropriate form (TASH-2-97), in 15 copies not later than June 30, 1997. The Ministry of Science will appoint a professional panel for each research area announced in this notice (Electro-optics, Advanced Materials, Microelectronics, Biotechnology and Telecommunications).

To receive information in the professional areas:

- In Electro-optics and Microelectronics - contact  
Mr. Joseph van Zwaren, Director, Division for the Exact Sciences, Tel. 02-5847095, E-mail: Jo@most.gov.il
- In Biotechnology - contact  
Dr. Yair Degani, Senior Head, Life Sciences Division, Tel. 02-5847082, E-mail: Yair@most.gov.il
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- In Information and Telecommunications - contact  
Dr. Gideon Arieli, Head, Computer Science and Advanced Technology Division, Tel. 02-5822182, E-mail: Gideon@most.gov.il

To receive information in the administrative and financial areas:

- Mr. Avi Anati, Director, Research Funds, Tel. 02-5817057, E-mail: avi@most.gov.il



The Ministry of Science

### Invitation to Submit Applications for Eshkol Scientific Infrastructure Scholarships

Applications may be submitted for an Eshkol Scientific Infrastructure Scholarship, for the 1997/8 academic year.

The objective of the scholarships is to support the training of personnel, working in science and technology, in infrastructure research fields likely to be of importance in promoting Israel's scientific and technological efforts. The scholarships are available for students working for a second or third degree and for a postdoctorate at Israeli institutions of higher learning. The scholarships will be awarded in the following fields to students with an outstanding record in their first year of studies.

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- Biotechnology (post-doc)
- Advanced materials (M.Sc., Ph.D. and post-doc)
- Information and Telecommunications (Ph.D. and post-doc)
- Micro-electronics (M.Sc., Ph.D. and post-doc)

In accordance with the agreement with Israeli academic institutions, the Ministry of Science will accept applications from M.Sc. and Ph.D. students on either of two dates: June 15, 1997 or November 30, 1997. Post-doc applicants must submit their applications by June 15, 1997.

Applications should be submitted on the appropriate form (TASH-2-97), in ten copies to: The Ministry of Science Research Funds Division Building 3, Hakiryia Hamizrahit, POB 18195, Jerusalem 91181

For further information, phone Leah Markovitz, Tel. 02-584-7057.

## 12 die in attack on Lisbon disco

LISBON (AP) — Three masked gunmen burst into a topless bar yesterday in a northern Portuguese town, splashed gasoline around and set it ablaze. Twelve people were killed and 14 injured, including one wounded by gunfire, news reports said.

Police were trying to determine a motive for the attack on the *Mea Culpa* topless bar and discotheque in Amarante, 50 km east of the northern city of Oporto.

An employee said there were about 30 people inside when the attack occurred just before 4 a.m.

"The masked men burst in, shoved us against a wall and poured the gas over the floor and sofas," the employee, who declined to give his name, told state radio Antena 1.

One of the injured was shot by one of the assailants as he tried to flee.

"I saw three men in black with guns and with cans of gasoline. They poured out the gas and pushed everyone back inside as people tried to get out. I tried to make a dash for it and they shot me," Antonio Jorge told Antena 1.

Jorge was hit in the back but doctors said his life was not in danger, the radio said.

Four of those hospitalized suffered severe burns, Antena 1 said. Nine of the injured were treated and released.

Ten fire trucks rushed to the scene. It took firefighters two hours to extinguish the blaze, according to the Portuguese news agency Lusa.

FLAIR

Price inSCENTives

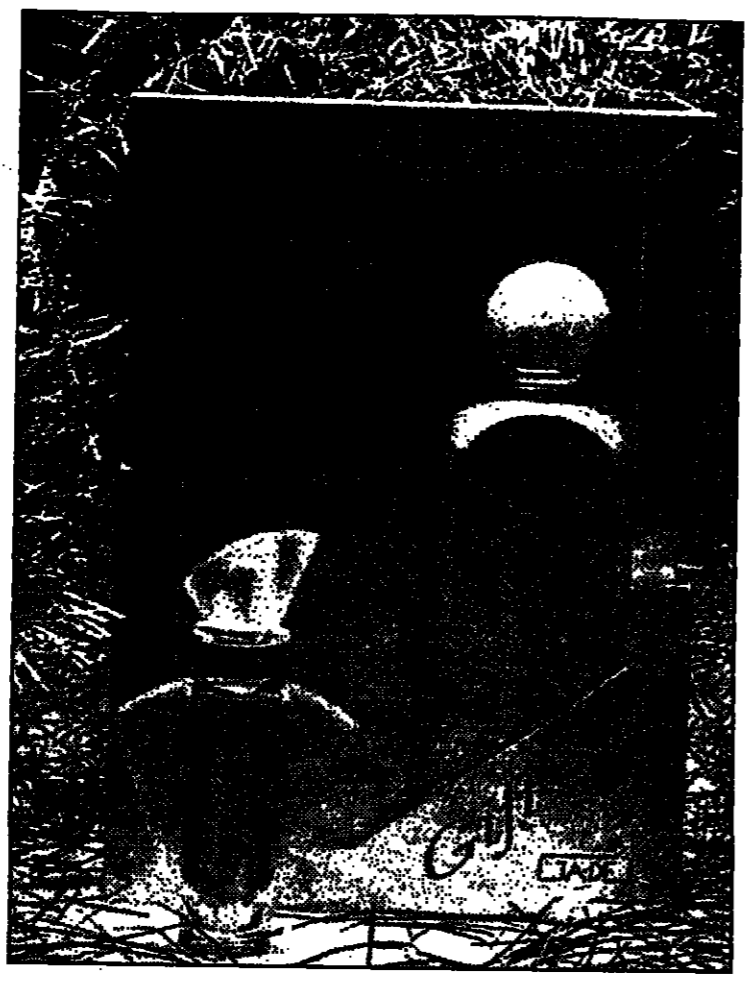
By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Come Pessah and the fragrance market pulls out all the stops in a heady race for the sweet smell of success.

In addition to all our old favorites, there are some less common scents which have been released in recent months.

Some people think that if a famous fashion designer gives his or her name to a scent, that the fragrance must be as good as the fashion.

Some years ago, some of the leading cosmetics companies came out with colorless mascara for people who wanted to wear make-up but didn't want to look as if they were.



Loushi by Jade: A light, flirtatious fragrance.

smell which quickly fades into something barely discernible.

Not so Loushi by Jade, which gives off a light flirtatious bouquet. It's the kind of fragrance one would expect from Jade, whose cosmetics are always intriguing games of shape and color.

little time to do some window shopping before making a purchase, will find it a valuable, money-saving exercise.

Despite the much-touted discounts, most well-known brands cost at least NIS 130. However, if you're not too embarrassed to be seen in a poor man's paradise such as Tati, the newly-opened budget-price French department store, you can snap up large bottles of perfume for prices ranging from NIS 5.99 to NIS 12.99, and oddly enough not all of them smell cheap.

By PETER CARLSON

What I want to know is this: Who does the PR for the prostate gland?

As glands go, the prostate is a tough sell. Any fool can do PR for mammary glands. They are popular with those who possess them and adored by those who don't.

But the prostate gland is another story. Women are indifferent to the prostate and men are scared to death of it.

And yet there it is, in the Reader's Digest, in Newsweek, in Business Week, even in the Ladies' Home Journal.

And here it is, in the spring issue of Prime Health and Fitness, the star of a six-page story titled "Calling Dr. Jellyfingers."

But that's beside the point. The point is that the American magazine industry has gone daffy over stories on the prostate gland and abdominal muscles and back pain and herbal healing.

Health mags work on the same formula as horror movies: First

they scare you, then they soothe you. They scare you by revealing that the universe is conspiring to kill you.

These statements are frightening enough, but the questions these magazines ask are even scarier.

Health magazines work on the same formula as horror movies: First

in 55 years, physical immortality will be reality.

Good grief, what will that do to the Social Security system?

These mags are fonts of amazing information. American Health reports that a bag of frozen peas makes a very good compress for injuries.

Health magazines work on the same formula as horror movies: First

esting than the ads. There are ads for stuff you've never heard of, like "Gingko-Go" and "Intestinalia" and "E-mergen-C" and "MaxiLIFE Brain Protector" and "Turbo Blast," which is billed as a "mental fitness motivator smart drink."

An ad for something called ActiVin pretty much sums up the goofiness of health mags.

Hey, folks, why not just drink the red wine? Not only will you live longer, but you might actually enjoy your life.

That revelation inspired the Magazine Reader's E-Z Five-Step Plan for Physical and Mental Health.

- Step 1: Walk briskly to the liquor store. Step 2: Buy a bottle of red wine. Step 3: Walk briskly home. Step 4: Pour a glass of the wine. Step 5: Drink it while reading a magazine.

CAVEAT EMPTORI!

Better to pass over Pessah 'specials'

By RUTHIE BLUM

This being just about the "hottest" consumer season of the year here, be careful not to get lulled into spending unreasonable sums of money for Pessah-related products.

The Israel Consumer Council has just published results of a survey it performed on cleaning materials - a Pessah hysteria, if there ever was one.

According to the Israel Consumer

Council, large price discrepancies were found between supermarkets. One example cited: a liter bottle of Neka liquid textile shampoo costs NIS 6.49 at the Hypershuk in Beit She'an, while the same product at Hypercol stores costs NIS 9.95.

Another example is Gano pesticide, K-300, which costs NIS 13.60 at the Hypershuk in Beit She'an, and NIS 17.95 at most Hypercol stores.

A kilo and a half of Tinoklin powder detergent, which costs NIS 14.95 at the same northern Hypershuk, costs a whopping NIS 22.90 at most Greenberg stores.

UNRELATED TO the holiday, but rele-

vant to many unsuspecting consumers who may have been swayed by false advertising in Visa and Isracard booklets, as well as in Yedioth Aharonot.

Throughout 1995, this device was peddled as a safe and sure way to determine ovulation, for the purpose of enhancing the chances of pregnancy.

Complaints received by the ministry led the legal department, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, to investigate the device.

According to the indictment, "...the companies used advertising which is liable to mislead consumers in an essen-

tial part of the transaction, among other things, regarding the quality of the merchandise, its effectiveness, the risk involved, and conditions of responsibility...."

It was not divulged whether any woman was caused physical harm by this product. However, it is enough for a woman to have had her hopes of conception raised by marketing techniques which turn out to be false - or at least highly exaggerated - for its peddlers to be held seriously accountable.

What I am wandering is how all of this happened to slip by the Trade and Health ministries for over two years. I guess it means that we consumers should not assume that because a product is on sale in pharmacies it can necessarily be trusted.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, P.O.B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

WALTER FRANKL ISRAEL GARDENING ENCYCLOPEDIA. Walter Frankl combines over 50 years' gardening experience and thousands of questions raised by readers of his column in The Post...

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## Premier charges

While opposition calls for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to step down immediately as premier, the police recommendation that he be indicted on charges of fraud and breach of trust is likely to deal a fatal blow to Netanyahu's chances of serving out his four-year term as prime minister.

As Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said when news of the Bar-On Affair first aired, "if even 10 percent of the story is correct, then this government has no right to exist." These thoughts were later echoed by Finance Minister Dan Meridor, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani and Communications Minister Limor Livnat.

Given that the attorney-general would not recommend indicting the prime minister unless he was confident the allegations would stand up in court, a formal decision to indict the prime minister would strongly suggest that at least 10 percent of the allegations of wrongdoings surrounding Roni Bar-On's wretched appointment as attorney-general are correct. The opposition would then be perfectly placed to call a special session of the Knesset to discuss deposing the premier were Netanyahu to refuse to go of his own accord. Until then, the opposition, hard as it might be, should wait patiently - with the distraction of the possibility of a national unity government now removed - for the legal wheels to turn.

The decision to indict is now left to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel. They have promised a quick decision before Pessah begins on Monday and it is of the utmost importance to the country's smooth-running that they keep their word. If the police recommendation, which should have been made public and not leaked over the spat of 24 hours, was the only cloud on the horizon, then, as in the words of the Pessah Haggada, "dayeinu" - it would be enough. But the country is also faced with a crisis in relations with the Palestinian Authority and an economy which is showing increasing signs of entering a depression.

Although under the Basic Law: The Government, there is no need for a prime minister to resign if indicted - indeed, under the law a prime minister can in theory continue serving even after conviction - the norms introduced by the High Court's decision prohibiting Aryeh Deri from taking his seat at the cabinet table would also seem to apply to the prime minister, under the principle, the higher the office, the higher the standards.

The same is true for the other personalities

involved in this sorry affair. If Rubinstein decides to indict Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Avigdor Lieberman, the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, both should resign forthwith. And even if Rubinstein decides not to indict any of those involved in the affair, Hanegbi cannot at this point morally retain the post of justice minister.

The justice minister is responsible for overseeing the entire legal system of the state. If the Israel Police have concluded that, in their estimation, there are grounds to recommend Hanegbi's indictment on charges of presenting the cabinet with false information, Hanegbi can no longer have any moral credibility in taking decisions regarding the execution of justice. For these very same reasons, and before an indictment was issued, Hanegbi's predecessor at the Justice Ministry, Ya'acov Ne'eman, resigned.

Unfair as it might be to Hanegbi, the same is not true for Netanyahu. If there is no indictment, the prime minister, no matter how tarnished, is fully within his rights, until a special majority of the Knesset decides otherwise, to continue leading the country.

If the attorney-general decides not to issue indictments, he must however resist the temptation to publish a state-comptroller-style, or a mini-commission of inquiry report in its stead. The temptation is understandable - simply declaring that there is insufficient evidence to indict would be too anti-climactic given the waves this affair has caused and the personalities, from the prime minister down, involved.

Indeed, as Rubinstein has pointed out, a laconic "yes or no" as to whether to press charges would not suffice. Just as the attorney-general would be expected to present his reasons for indicting, an explanation of a decision not to indict would also be called for. The public deserves a clear explanation as to where the line lies between illegal behavior and distasteful political wheel-dealing.

But the matter should end there, as far as the attorney-general is concerned. This is not to say that the affair, even if it ends without troubling the courts, does not raise some serious questions. Quite the contrary. How and why the government deliberately sought out a sub-qualified attorney for the highest law enforcement position is an administrative outrage of the highest degree, and the finger of blame falls on the prime minister. For this, he will have to answer, if not in the Knesset, then in the court of public opinion.



ULEG 97

## Use and abuse

DAVID GRANIEWITZ

My brother underwent an unfortunate experience regarding army reserve duty.

He had begun a technical writing course for which he had paid several thousand shekels. He contacted his unit and asked if it were possible not to be called up until the end of the course, which was to last about three months. He was informed that his reserve duty was due to begin in November, in the middle of the course, and that he would have to make a request which would be considered by the deferments committee.

He could only do this after receiving his call-up notice through the post. The law states that a reservist must be sent notice at least 60 days prior to the beginning of the tour of duty. If he wishes to make a request for its deferment or reduction, he must do so up to 40 days before its start.

He waited for the order to arrive and, when it didn't, he phoned his unit to see what had happened, but he couldn't get an answer.

On the day when his stint was to have started, my brother was phoned by his unit and asked where he was. When he said that he had received no call-up order, he was told that it didn't matter and that he had to turn up.

He knew that this was not the case and stayed put. A week later, he was phoned again. This time the tone on the other side of the phone was most threatening. He was told that as a week had passed he was going to be pronounced AWOL. The Military Police would be coming round to arrest him, if he didn't present himself forthwith.

Fortunately, his girlfriend's sister-in-law is an adjutant in the army and she confirmed that his unit was out of line. These were merely "scare tactics" and they were completely illegal. A couple of phone calls by her finally got the army off my brother's back. In the end, his unit's oversight meant that he could finish his

### Reservists are human too

course unhindered. The most disturbing aspect of this episode is the threat to one's career that could be caused by the army's illegal, bullying tactics. And such stories are typical of the injustices of the whole system of reserve duty. Each time that I get called up, I hear tales of those whose livelihoods, studies or families are detrimentally affected because they have to leave their regular lives for a month.

Published statistics often inform us of how few able-bodied men still do reserve duty today. (The most recent survey showed that only a quarter of those who could serve actually do so.) Is it any wonder that so many potential reservists shirk their duty?

The latest suggestions for lightening the load of the reservist include lowering the age until which combatants must serve to 41, and remunerating those who do more than 21 days service (combat units bear the brunt of reserve duty). The major improvement over the past couple of years has been the ceiling placed on the number of days that can be served at one stretch to 24. (Prior to that we were doing 32 days straight).

Yet there remains a lack of adequate legislation to protect the reservist. Although fathers of six are entitled to serve close to home, there are not enough laws that limit the service of reservists with large families.

Similarly, students are at the mercy of universities and other institutions which are not willing to make allowances for those whose semesters have been ruined by reserve duty. There are stories of employers preferring job candidates who will not be absent for about a month every year. It seems that few people today in civilian life appreciate the contribution of those who still do reserve duty.

What bothers reservists in combat units isn't the danger, but the feeling that until you're middle-aged, your life is going to run by the whim of some military clerk, while others can go about their business, free from hassle.

If the army is worried about the level of motivation in regular and reserve units, it has to start being sensitive to the needs and wishes of the reservists and start treating them as grown-up, law-abiding citizens who happen to be soldiers occasionally. We are not pieces of military equipment to be used and abused at will.

The writer is a Jerusalem high-school teacher.

## Credit where it's due

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

After every suicide bombing, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres used to repeat the same fatalistic mantra: "They cannot be stopped. No power on earth, no government can stop a single suicide bomber." It was as though suicide bombers were unavoidable, like rain.

This declaration became part of officially promoted propaganda. Simple-minded folk began to actually believe their leaders as the message was broadcast again and again in death-laden tones by the pliant Hebrew media and TV. You would think it was written in stone on Mount Sinai.

Now Binyamin Netanyahu repeats the refrain in a slightly more artful manner. He says that all he expects from Arafat is a "100 percent effort in curbing terrorism." Like a parrot echoing the dogma of Rabin and Peres, he said after his recent visit to Washington: "Of course there is no way of preventing a few fanatics from carrying out an act of terror."

The theory is simple: A single, demented individual, mastering the art of bomb making, finding the materials himself, planning his act in isolation, doing all the necessary intelligence work, would set out one morning without a soul knowing what he was up to and then blow up as many Jews as he could.

Those who govern us - ministers of state, the police, the combined intelligence and security services - throw up their hands in passive despair, saying: "It's an act of nature." So natural that, with the exception of Netanyahu, they have never felt the need to attend the funerals of the terrorists' victims or visit the homes of the bereaved.

The idea of the crazed loner is a myth. During the days when one bus bombing followed another, intelligence specialists revealed that each atrocity was planned, organized and put into operation by scores of evil men. And that the only way to combat them was to destroy the terrorist organizations.

If proof were needed of this crystal-clear analysis it was surely provided by the events surrounding the arrest of a gang of terrorist killers in the West Bank village of Kfar Tzurif. Moussa Ranimat, who blew himself up in a Tel Aviv cafe killing three Israeli mothers,

was an integral member of that gang.

He was also part of the operation responsible for the deaths of at least 11 - and the injuries to another 49 or so - Israelis. The Tel Aviv killer was no loner. He was backed by his gang, by Hamas leaders, and by very many people in his village. And it was revealed to us by a particularly well-informed intelligence source that the gang's activities were known to, and encouraged by, the Palestinian Authority and in particular its "security chief" Jibril Rajoub.

THE passive acquiescence of our

### It was the GSS not Jibril Rajoub who caught the Tzurif terrorists

police and intelligence services was demonstrated by the leak from their ranks which claimed that Ranimat's atrocity was apparently unintentional. Yet whether the killer meant to plant the bomb and vanish or to blow himself up is irrelevant.

For one family at least, the authorities' negligence was particularly hard to swallow. When Sharon Edri disappeared, his parents instinctively suspected that he had been kidnapped by a terrorist gang. But they were fobbed off with excuses that he was in trouble with the army, or had personal reasons which were never explained and which were totally unknown to his parents, brothers and sisters.

This type of wishful thinking has become almost commonplace. Whenever a Jew is killed, the authorities initially convince themselves that the crime, if not exactly his own fault, was criminally motivated or had some other explanation; that it was anything other than a terrorist act.

Here there is an echo from the ghetto - instead of relying on self-defense, Jews are placing their trust in those who command criminals, fanatics and suicide bombers. In reality, when Israel's

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MIDDLE EAST PEACE ACCORDS

Sir, - Had I not known you were serious in your editorial of April 7, "Mid-course correction," I would have found it rather humorous. However, your view that no symmetry exists between Palestinian and Israeli demands is totally unfounded.

In fact, the Palestinian demands against settlements is totally founded in the Middle East Peace Accords, which are based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Resolution 242 was written in November 1967, soon after the Six Day War. The second sentence states, "Emphasizing the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war..." This is followed by subsection 1 stating, "...which should include the application of both the following principles: (a) Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in recent conflict; (b) Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect

for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area..." UN Resolution 338, written in October 1973, states in subsection 2: "Calls upon all parties concerned to start immediately after the cease-fire the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 in all of its parts."

To take this one step further, the following documents reinforce the validity of Resolutions 242 and 338. The Invitation to the Peace Conference in Madrid, first paragraph says, "...comprehensive peace settlement... based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338." The Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements states in Article I, "...leading to a permanent settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It is understood that the interim

arrangements are on integral part of the whole peace process and that the negotiations on the permanent status will lead to the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338." Lastly, the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in its preamble, again references the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

These agreements, signed by the Israeli government, require the return of Arab lands to the pre-Six Day War period. The illegal confiscation of West Bank and Gaza Strip lands for Jewish settlements, including Har Homa, as well as military installations, violate these agreements. It appears to me that if there is any inequity in this peace process, it is due to Israel's denial of past resolutions, accords and agreements.

DOUG WAGNER

Jerusalem.

### DECIMATING THE RANKS OF WORLD JEWRY

Sir, - I take great exception to Rabbi Stewart Weiss's article of April 11, "The great conversion controversy," in which he lays the blame for the dwindling numbers in the world Jewish population at the doorsteps of the Reform and Conservative movements.

By "changing the rules in the middle of the game" as he asserts the Reform movement has done in also recognizing patrilineage as conferring "Jewishness" upon an individual, the Reform movement has actually increased the numbers by embracing those whom Orthodox excludes.

In addition, while religious authorities here claim that they are willing to accept the status quo which recognizes conversions performed abroad by Reform or Conservative rabbis, I am living proof that that "acceptance" is hard to come by.

In 1980, after more than 18 months of study at a Reform congregation in Los Angeles, and

after much soul-searching as well, I converted to Judaism. I attended Friday evening services at the same temple and literally dragged my Israeli husband, a non-affiliated, secular Jew, along with me. When our son was born, he was circumcised by a mohel on the eighth day after his birth. We held a naming ceremony at the temple when my daughter was born. My children attended Jewish nursery schools and kindergartens. As they grew older, they were involved in enrichment programs at the local Jewish community center. However...

Upon making aliya in October 1993, I presented myself at the Interior Ministry in order to secure my identity card. It was the first time in 13 years that I was told that I was not a Jew. I was told that my Reform conversion was not acceptable here. I had been warned by my rabbi in the US that this might happen. I just couldn't believe that it would. After much arguing and many

calls and letters which produced little result and heeding the ID in order to proceed with absorption, I finally agreed to accept an ID card which listed my religion as "not registered" (one less Jew to bolster the dwindling numbers). I am sorry to say that this same scenario was recently repeated when my son, having reached the age of 16, presented himself at the Interior Ministry to secure his identity card. I can only assume that the same fate awaits my daughter next year.

In the US, we were considered a Jewish family. Here I am not a Jew, but rather, as Rabbi Weiss states, a "cancer," my children the product of an intermarriage. In one fell swoop of the pen, three souls have been eradicated from the Jewish population. I am bitter and I am angry and I ask you, Rabbi Weiss, who is the real culprit decimating the ranks of World Jewry?

LISA RUBIN

Herzliya.

## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



This image was chosen World Press Photo of the Year for 1996. Francesco Zizola, of Italy, took the picture of a center set up in Quito, Angola, for children traumatized by the Angola civil war. Many of the children were maimed by undetected land mines in the area.

(AP)

## POSTSCRIPTS

WE DID IT AGAIN. After Postscripts pointed out the unintentionally punny phrase "a milkman would have cowed daughters," a reader promptly came up with another from the pages of the Post.

Zvi Civins of Jerusalem caught this one in a Parenting column devoted to the issue of thumb-sucking: "... it's a natural, resourceful way for children to recharge their batteries. A thumb is always on hand."

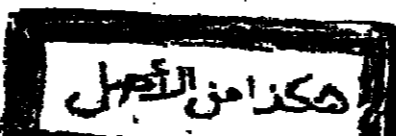
AN ISRAELI woman is pregnant with quintuplets, and you can be sure she was not taking fertility drugs: she's already raising 17 children.

Hitam Darabshe, 30, had six children from a previous marriage when she married Abdel, a father of 11, four months ago. A month after the wedding, she became pregnant in a big way.

The odds of conceiving quintuplets without fertility drugs is one in 65 million.

OOPS! In AACI's periodical Northern Lights, an advertisement blurb suggests there's a computer shop in Haifa catering especially for women. "The client selects required bra and quality of parts" ad reads, in part. What could they mean?

George Marcia



# Court drama over 10 Commandments

### For some American Jewish groups, there is an 11th commandment: Thou shalt not post the first 10, Marilyn Henry reports from New York

The opponents of Judge Roy Moore may not have a prayer.

Thousands of people from the religious right converged on the Alabama Capitol last weekend in a show of support for Moore, who is insisting on his right to hang a plaque of the Ten Commandments in his courtroom.

American Jewish groups want him to get rid of it. So does a court order.

This fracas was originally about the separation of church and state. Now some observers say it appears to be escalating into a challenge by the religious right to defy the law.

That was because the governor of Alabama, Fob James, Jr., reportedly said he would call out the National Guard - as well as the University of Alabama football team, known as the Crimson Tide - if anyone tried to spirit away Moore's plaque.

"Never doubt my resolve," James told a rally at the state Capitol last Saturday. "There comes a time when free people will no longer tolerate their loss of liberty. That time has come. Lawmaking by the US Supreme Court is wrong, illegal and chaotic."

Under the First Amendment of the US Constitution, Americans are guaranteed freedom of religion and the government is barred from establishing any religion. In three decades of durable decisions, the Supreme Court has maintained what is called a strict "wall" separating church and state.

Moore, who is a Baptist, contends that his freedom of religion guarantees his right to practice Christianity in his North Alabama courtroom. That means hanging the Ten Commandments and opening court with a prayer.

But, not just any prayer. "My duty under the Constitution is to

acknowledge the Judeo-Christian God," the God of the Bible on which the US was founded, Moore told the Associated Press. "We are not a nation founded upon the Hindu god or Buddha," said Moore.

Another Alabama court ordered Moore to remove the plaque, saying that the display was an unconstitutional violation of the separation of church and state. That order is now being appealed.

American Jewish groups, traditionally staunch defenders of the separation of church and state, are offended by Moore's plaque and by his prayers. They are also offended by the fact that his prayers, which in any case should not be recited in court in the first place, are also exclusionary. In addition they are outraged by the Alabama governor's patronage of the judge.

"You can argue whether the Ten Commandments are innocuous, but it's not innocuous to have the governor threaten to send in troops rather than comply with a court order [to remove the plaque]," said Marc Stern of the American Jewish Congress.

Moore and his supporters on the religious right "are trying to inject their religion in an in-your-face way in a forum where it is not appropriate," said Steve Freedman, director of legal affairs of the Anti-Defamation League.

"The Ten Commandments are the quintessential expression of what lies at the heart of most religions," Freedman said. "There's a place for them in people's homes, in people's churches, on private property - not in the courts."

The American Jewish Congress called on the Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission to investigate Moore to determine whether he had violated the American Bar Association Code of Judicial

Conduct. The code says a judge shall not, "in the performance of judicial duties, by words or conduct, manifest bias or prejudice, including bias based upon religion."

"No Buddhist, Hindu or Moslem can walk into Judge Moore's courtroom with confidence that he will not meet prejudice," it said in a letter to the commission.

The way Moore displays the Ten Commandments conveys a religious message, Stern said. "The courtroom is a place that is supposed to be neutral ground for religion," he added.

The Ten Commandments have made a public comeback in the last year.

Tennessee passed a resolution that called on people to post them in their homes, businesses and schools. The lone dissenting vote came from Steve Cohen, the only Jew in the Tennessee State Senate, who said: "The Ten Commandments were given to us by God. God does not need the Tennessee General Assembly's help in disseminating them."

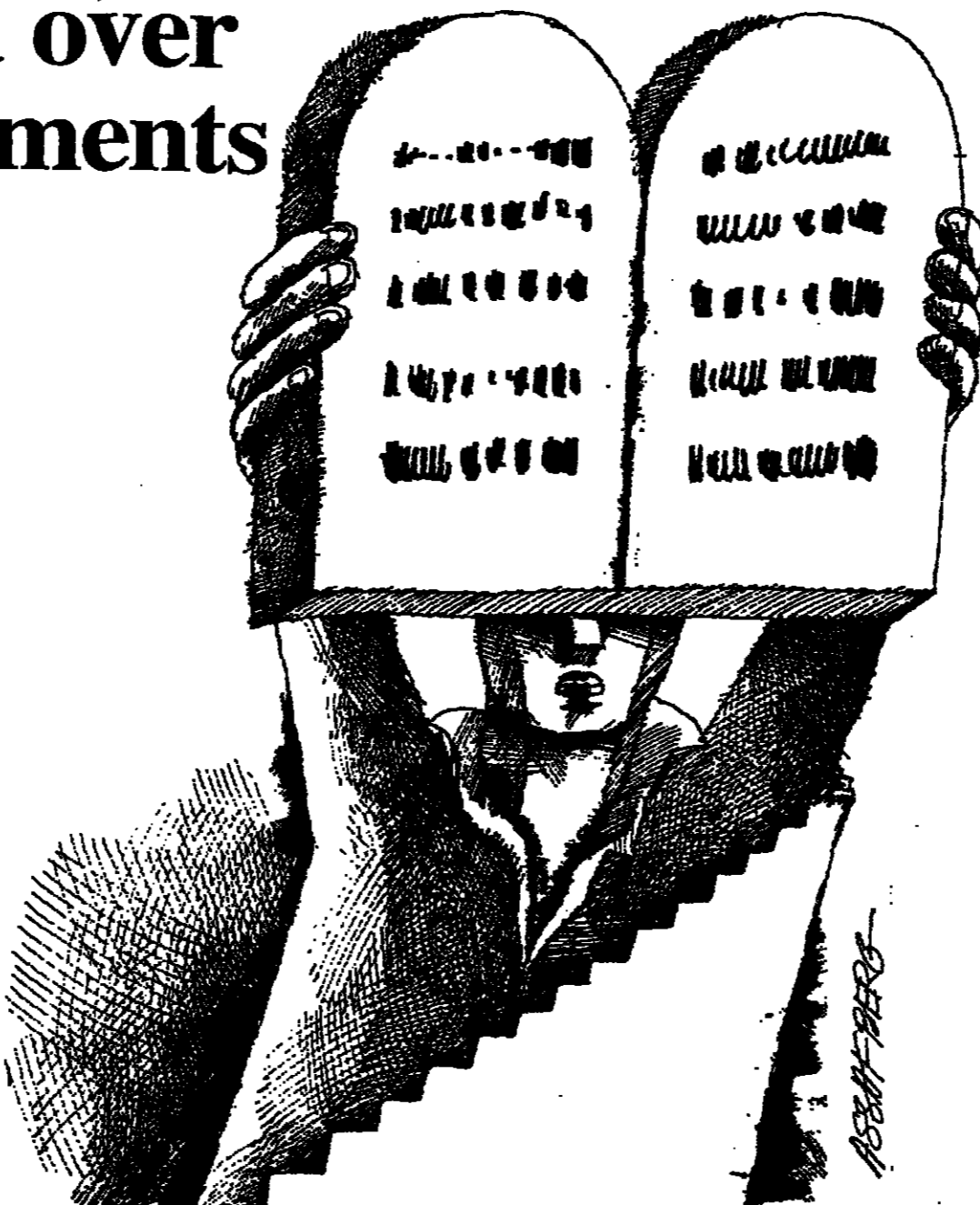
In March, the US House of Representatives passed a resolution supporting the Ten Commandments - part of what Freedman called the religious right's "continuing effort to make secular institutions more religious." The resolution was not law; as a law, it likely would have been unconstitutional.

Instead, it appeared to be a nice sentiment.

"It was like saying you support apple pie and sunshine," said Freedman, adding that made it all the more "sinister." There was no way for a politician to oppose it on the finer points of church-state separation without appearing to be anti-religion.

But, he said, "Supporting the separation of church and state is not tantamount to hostility to religion. Religion is so precious and valuable that we don't want the state to have anything to do with it."

"Religion has flourished in this country precisely because it is independent of the state," he argued.



## Not Page One

### Ilana's one-woman peace process

By Sam Orbaum

Ilana Basri was supposed to begin her retirement this week, but she's still working - thanks to an outcry from citizens of Arab countries.

Basri has been hosting a radio program that for 24 years achieved what the peace process has failed to do: develop an atmosphere of trust and cooperation.

Since even before the Yom Kippur War, Basri's remarkable program, *Doctor Behind the Microphone*, has put Libyans, Iraqis, Syrians and Saudis in direct contact with Israelis. In the days when a visit from King Hussein was unimaginable, long before even Sadat set foot on the Zionist entity, Arabs came, quietly, fearlessly, gratefully - and it was Basri who brought them here.

They came in search of their own medical miracles, not always routine stuff, mind you. Some patients arrive blind and before going home, enjoy a little sightseeing. Skin conditions can be so severe as to be crippling or fatal. One three-year-old Libyan boy was brought here on his father's back because the skin on the child's feet could not even tolerate shoes and socks. A Jerusalem doctor concocted a cream for him, and kept them supplied with regular shipments. Three years later, the lad, cured and walking normally, returned with his family to say thanks.

In another unusual case, a Syrian mother contacted Basri in 1979, asking that she save her baby boy. She had already buried nine young children who had the same rare skin disorder. Basri got a rescue mission going. "We told her to come. But apparently the Syrians wouldn't let them." Basri never heard from them again.

Thalassemia - a serious form of anemia - is another recurring subject on her show. The inherited illness is particularly prevalent because of the unfortunate tradition of inbreeding.

"One time, about 20 years ago, I did a program about thalassemia. Afterwards, I got a call from a Western ambassador in Tel-Aviv, asking for a tape of the program. Two weeks later, a boy suffering from thalassemia appeared for treatment at Hadassah. The boy was the son of an Arab ruler."

Her most satisfying success was a particularly complicated case - medically and politically. "The patient said it was impossible for him to come here. I consulted with a doctor from Bikur Holim Hospital, and he consented to meet the patient in Europe. I went along with him, and we stayed for 10 days until the patient was cured."

When Basri's show was about to end, her dismayed listeners responded with a groundswell of support. Dozens of letters arrived, begging her to continue. And she will, with two-hour weekly broadcasts replacing her shorter daily shows.

The peace process may be failing in the palaces and parliaments, but Basri's keeping a bit of it going in the living rooms of the Arab world.

from such medically advanced countries as Canada and the US.

She turns to Hadassah Hospital for help with most of the queries, and to arrange consultations and treatments. Basri stresses that her referrals pay the hospital just as any tourist would. The hospital, like Basri's broadcasts, subscribes firmly to the maxim that medicine and politics don't mix.

Hadassah enjoys a near-mythical reputation throughout the Middle East, which certainly props Basri's credibility. "When I was a little girl, growing up in Iraq, I used to hear rich Moslems, my neighbors, tell about coming to Hadassah Hospital."

Her most common cases are eye and skin problems; not always routine stuff, mind you. Some patients arrive blind and before going home, enjoy a little sightseeing. Skin conditions can be so severe as to be crippling or fatal. One three-year-old Libyan boy was brought here on his father's back because the skin on the child's feet could not even tolerate shoes and socks. A Jerusalem doctor concocted a cream for him, and kept them supplied with regular shipments. Three years later, the lad, cured and walking normally, returned with his family to say thanks.

In another unusual case, a Syrian mother contacted Basri in 1979, asking that she save her baby boy. She had already buried nine young children who had the same rare skin disorder. Basri got a rescue mission going. "We told her to come. But apparently the Syrians wouldn't let them." Basri never heard from them again.

Thalassemia - a serious form of anemia - is another recurring subject on her show. The inherited illness is particularly prevalent because of the unfortunate tradition of inbreeding.

"One time, about 20 years ago, I did a program about thalassemia. Afterwards, I got a call from a Western ambassador in Tel-Aviv, asking for a tape of the program. Two weeks later, a boy suffering from thalassemia appeared for treatment at Hadassah. The boy was the son of an Arab ruler."

Her most satisfying success was a particularly complicated case - medically and politically. "The patient said it was impossible for him to come here. I consulted with a doctor from Bikur Holim Hospital, and he consented to meet the patient in Europe. I went along with him, and we stayed for 10 days until the patient was cured."

When Basri's show was about to end, her dismayed listeners responded with a groundswell of support. Dozens of letters arrived, begging her to continue. And she will, with two-hour weekly broadcasts replacing her shorter daily shows.

The peace process may be failing in the palaces and parliaments, but Basri's keeping a bit of it going in the living rooms of the Arab world.

## THERE AND THEN

# A Zionist expedition east of the Golan

By GRAYA SHAPIRO

In 1924, two men in their 20s decided to save the 100,000-dunam tract Baron Edmund de Rothschild had acquired 30 years earlier in Hauran, the fertile plain just east of the Golan Heights, in the name of Zionism.

Indeed, an attempt in 1894 to found a settlement in that area had failed - it proved to be too far away from the center of Jewish farming activities in Galilee and the settlers suffered from solitude and frequent assaults by their Beduin neighbors. Palestine Jewish Colonization Association (PICA) officials, who represented Rothschild in Palestine, wished to exchange the Hauran land for a suitable plot in Palestine proper. Meanwhile, the land was sublet to local tenants.

Shmuel Dayan, an impassioned member of Nahalal, did his best to arouse the leaders of Hapoel Hatzair to oppose PICA. And, when Yosef Sprinzak, the influential secretary-general of the party, was attending a Zionist Congress in Europe, Dayan persuaded the remaining leaders to send

him on a fact-finding expedition to Hauran. Dr. Aviva Ufaz, of Oranim College in Kiryat Tivon, reveals the details of this venture in a recent issue of *Cathedra*, a quarterly that Yad Ben-Zvi devotes to studies in the history of Eretz Yisrael.

The expedition was to be a secret from Hapoel Hatzair leaders themselves, who were indefinitely postponing the trip. It was also a secret from Dayan's comrades in Nahalal. However, Dayan did confide in Haim Shurer, who joined him with much enthusiasm. The two adopted a young engineer, Haim Papper, who spoke a little English and French - an absolute necessity when dealing with British and French authorities en route.

Shurer (later editor-in-chief of the Histadrut daily  *Davar*) kept a diary of the expedition, which Dr. Ufaz publishes for the first time.

Their first problem was budgetary. Dayan, the optimist, estimated it would cost about five Palestine pounds. A more realistic approach put it at 20 pounds, obtained as loans and contributions from unsuspecting people who were just told it

was "for an important mission for the Yishuv, not yet for general knowledge." They decided to travel as English tourists. Though Dayan's dark complexion rather suggested an Egyptian, they could not pass for Arabs because of their limited knowledge of Arabic. To look like tourists, they bought cheap, but presentable, European dress. The French consul in Jerusalem issued a visa and even wrote a letter of introduction to the authorities in Syria. On Friday August 29, the three boarded the train for Damascus from Tzemaah.

The man in Damascus was PICA representative Amatzia Eisenberg. The authorities, Eisenberg said, were very helpful. It was the PICA management which tarried. Eisenberg introduced the young men to the French high commissioner who assured them that Rothschild could make any use he wanted of the land.

They made a tour of the area on horseback because no driver would risk his car in that robber-infested country. Zalman Cohen, a Kfar Tavor man who dealt with the tenants on behalf of PICA, was their

guide. He wore a thick abaya and an akal on his head - a Circassian in every detail, wrote Shurer. The tourists, trying to be inconspicuous, wore local garments over their European garb. They also hired three armed guards.

The country fascinated them: Here were magnificent expanses of arable land and water, and magnificent waterfalls. Papper calculated a waterfall could easily irrigate 5,000 dunams. Cohen pleaded with them: Do something! Persuade them, the decision makers, to try again to settle, even on a small corner of this land. It was just an hour-and-a-half away from Tzemaah, no further than Haifa.

Back in Jerusalem, they were invited to Arthur Ruppin's home to report what they had seen. "We were listened to attentively but all those present decided unanimously that nothing should be done in the coming year. It was of no use to exacerbate relations between the French and the Syrians," Ruppin argued.

The Baron's Hauran possession's were impounded by Damascus when Syria achieved independence.

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Photographs and commentary by Neil Folberg

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## BUSINESS

in brief

### Greeks seek to link Russia-Israel gas deal

Greek Development Minister Vasso Papandreou is expected today to offer to act as a link between Israel and Russia if Jerusalem decides to purchase natural gas from Moscow. Papandreou is scheduled to meet National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon in Tel Aviv, where energy issues will be high on the agenda.

There is already a pipeline from Russia to Greece, which means that Athens could well challenge Turkey's claim to be the natural go-between. Sharon has been invited to Russia at the end of the month to discuss the possible purchase of natural gas.

David Harris

### Softex, BT reportedly mull subsidiary

Softex and British Telecom are in the final stages of talks to establish a joint subsidiary company that will develop a global communications network for the print and graphics industry, the *Forbes* business daily reported. The planned network, which would be based on British Telecom's existing infrastructure, will enable the distribution of graphic material via an Internet type of system for graphic materials consumers. The graphic database will make it possible for an American office to lay out ads and then transmit them for proofreading in Europe.

Jennifer Friedman

### Porush to fight Treasury budget cut plan

Deputy Construction and Housing Minister Meir Porush pledged yesterday to establish an opposition front within the government to fight the Treasury plan to cut an additional NIS 1 billion from the state budget. Porush said he will approach the heads of the NRP, Shas, Geshet, the Third Way, Yisrael B'aliya and Tsomet to join him in opposing the proposal. Three days of summit meetings among Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel failed to reach agreement on what action to take to pull the economy out of its slowdown. The talks are only likely to be reconvened after Pessah.

David Harris

### Sharansky wants domestic products protected

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said yesterday he objects to the Treasury's plan to alter the ordinances that offer protection to Israeli-produced goods. "All other countries protect their interests," he said. "There is no reason why we should contradict this trend."

David Harris

### Increase in March railway passengers

The number of train passengers rose to 479,000 last month, a 15 percent increase from last March, Israel Railways announced yesterday. More than 1.4 million people used the train in the first quarter, up 16% from the first three months last year. The main rise in March were on the Tel Aviv-Rehovot-Ashdod and Tel Aviv-Haifa lines, up 50% and 10% respectively.

David Harris

### New role for Oholi

Communications Minister Limor Livnat yesterday appointed Menahem Oholi, the ministry's legal adviser for the past 13 years, as associate director-general. The new job for Oholi was approved by the Civil Service Commission. He will be in charge of coordinating all ministry activities that deal with the law and general policy.

Judy Siegel

### Cellcom: 40% of customers use 'ID Call'

Forty percent of Cellcom subscribers have chosen to pay an extra NIS 5 a month for the "ID Call" feature that lets them know the phone number of the caller from the first ring. It is the first "intelligent network" service Cellcom has offered. The subscriber is able to decide whether to answer or not and have the caller leave a message in his voice mail box.

Judy Siegel

### Municipalities to meet PM over pay excesses

The heads of the Union of Local Authorities are scheduled to meet today with cabinet members, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a bid to persuade them to reject the Treasury's call for legislation against excessive wages in the public sector. The proposal to give municipality treasurers independent status is also strongly opposed by the union. They are asking that the cabinet debate be delayed while negotiations continue.

David Harris

# Substituting foreign labor with Palestinians to be decided today

Plan includes proposal to allow workers from territories overnight stay

By DAVID HARRIS

A ministerial committee on foreign workers is scheduled to decide today whether to endorse a plan aimed at gradually restoring Israel's pre-intifada level of Palestinian labor.

If endorsed by the committee, the plan is likely to be ultimately implemented by the full cabinet. Aimed at drastically reducing the number of non-Palestinian foreign workers currently in Israel, the plan includes a proposal to fully legalize Palestinian workers' staying in Israel overnight.

The recommendations are a compilation of those gathered by four committees established last year to examine the problem. "The proposal to allow Palestinians to stay over is the only one that has not yet been fully investigated," Labor and Social Affairs Ministry personnel planning head Benjamin Fefferman said yesterday. "Before getting approval, this step would have to be fully investigated, including a study by the General

Security Service."

The major plank of the plan is to reduce the number of foreign workers to one percent of the overall workforce, or some 17,500 people over the next five years and to increase the number of Palestinian workers to 70,000 by the end of this year. No proposals have been made regarding the Palestinian workforce in coming years.

Of the 70,000, some 30,000 will be granted licenses allowing them to work here even during a closure. The package of measures will cost an annual NIS 30 million.

The ministerial committee comprises its chairman, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani and Interior Minister Eli Suissa.

Currently, there are some 92,000 licensed foreign workers and an estimated 80,000 here illegally. The number of Palestinians working here averaged 32,000 in the first quarter, peaking at 45,000 before the Tel Aviv cafe terrorist

attack. While the exact number of Palestinian workers arriving here each day is unclear, some 20,000 were eligible to work here as of Tuesday and with a renewed closure, 8,000 yesterday.

In the short-term Yishai has asked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to consider allowing Palestinians who have held work permits over the last five years to come to their jobs inside Israel, even with a closure in force.

So far the Prime Minister's Office has not commented on the idea.

In recent years, the number of Palestinians as a percentage of the Israeli workforce has continued to dwindle from its 2.2% peak in March 1994, to its low of 0.7% last June, at the height of the closure, according to Central Bureau of Statistics data.

Meanwhile, in early 1994, foreigners comprised 1.1% of the workforce, rising to 2.9% by June 1995 and reaching a peak of 3.8% last June.

Some 81,000 foreign workers were legally employed in the

country as of last June, including both those from the territories and further afield.

When the proposals eventually come to the cabinet there is likely to be strong objection to some of the measures from Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan and deputy Construction and Housing Minister Meir Porush.

Their constituencies rely heavily on the foreign labor and fear a swift reduction in their numbers could cause major problems in their sectors.

Some 25% of farm workers are foreign, with 23.6% in the construction industry.

Palestinian politicians and economists are calling on the government to allow worker levels to return to those of the early 1990s, at around the 120,000 mark.

The recommendations being considered by the ministerial committee are the culmination of months of work by the four teams, which examined the nature of relationships between employers and foreign workers; taxation; legislation required to implement various

proposals, such as punishments for employers of illegal workers; and the practical arrangements for deportations.

The Gal-Yam committee, for example, which filed its recommendations in December, proposed that employers of foreign workers should be forced to pay an additional NIS 5.532 annually for each worker or pay a fine if their workers are here illegally, raising NIS 100 million for the state.

However, senior officers in Eitan's and Porush's ministries argued the proposals would cost their sectors as much as a combined NIS 280m.

The committees were set up following the cabinet's refusal to accept a plan from Yishai last August to expel 1,000 illegal foreign workers a month and to eventually send up to 100,000 back to their home countries. This was seen by many at the time to be too ambitious.

The proposals are expected to be discussed by the full cabinet next week.

## Israel-based Nasdaq companies worth \$8.8b.

By JENNIFER FRIEDMAN

The market value of Israel-based companies trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market totaled \$8.77 billion at the end of March, National Association of Securities Dealers CEO Frank Zarb said yesterday.

Addressing the semi-annual meeting of Nasdaq's International Markets Advisory Board in Jerusalem, Zarb said in the 1996 first quarter the total dollar volume of the 61 Israel-based companies trading on Nasdaq was \$6.84b, and total share volume exceeded 300 million.

Roughly 90 percent of the more than 80 Israel-related firms traded on Nasdaq are high-tech enterprises.

"The Nasdaq Stock Market is a capital-raising growth engine for Israeli companies," said Zarb, adding that 18 local firms made initial public offerings on Nasdaq in 1996 and the first quarter this year.

Nasdaq, the world's largest screen-based stock market, is the second largest equity market in the world, after the New York Stock Exchange. Trading on Nasdaq last year totaled more than \$3.3 trillion and accounts for 56% of the US's share volume.

Zarb said that by 1998, Nasdaq will be able to handle two billion shares per day.



### Destitute times in Bulgaria

Poverty-stricken Bulgarians cross the Danube River with bags of cheap potatoes bought in the southern Romanian town of Calarasi. The Bulgarians' rush for potatoes in Calarasi is an epitome of the economic crisis gripping their country, the main issue at stake for some 40 parties and coalitions running in Bulgaria's general election this Saturday.

(Reuter)

## Intel plans to make chips smaller, faster

By DAVID HARRIS

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)—Intel Corp. has outlined plans for its next-generation manufacturing process, allowing the California-based computer chip maker to get twice the chips out of every silicon wafer.

Called the "0.25 micron" process after the width of the lines that form the circuitry of a chip, the new technology means twice the productivity at new-generation plants in Oregon, Arizona, California, Ireland and New Mexico.

Manufacturing breakthroughs—the bulk of which are spearheaded by Intel design teams in Oregon—have wide-ranging implications for consumers. More sophisticated manufacturing processes make possible faster, cheaper microprocessors, which are the brains of computers. Advances in manufacturing also

translate into more valuable chips. The smaller the chip, the less distance electrons have to travel, which enables the circuitry to process information faster. Initially, these chips will command a higher price.

"The motivation to get to the next generation is so strong, because the payoff is so high," said Intel's Components Technology Development vice president and director Sunlin Chou.

Within a year, Intel expects to achieve volume production using the 0.25 micron process. As the technology matures, these new plants will enable Intel to produce microprocessors for desktop models computers that run at clock speeds as high as 400 megahertz, or twice the speed of chips widely available today.

## Brazilian bank to open office here, launch funds

By DAVID HARRIS

Brazilian investment bank Ourinvest will launch two Israeli funds and open a Tel Aviv office in the coming months, Center for Business Promotion foreign investment specialist Shachar Meidan told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

The Sao Paulo-based firm intends launching the funds to invest in public and private equities. The combined total of the funds will reach \$20 million over a 12-month period, beginning in the next two months.

One will be an institutional fund and the other an offshore fund aimed at foreign investors. The funds will invest in private ventures and publicly traded stocks.

The company hopes to open an office in Tel Aviv in July, which will be staffed by local management, in conjunction with the bank's Sao Paulo and Miami offices.

Once settled here, the bank will also explore the possibilities of investments in real estate, private banking, derivatives and currency arbitrage.

"This has come about as part of our continuing efforts to persuade Latin American companies to operate in Israel," Meidan said.

Ourinvest representatives were here a month ago, when they met senior stock exchange managers. Company executives are said to be confident the peace process will continue and that the region provides a good investment climate.

Meanwhile, Colombian telecommunications company Bogota PTT has also expressed considerable

interest in working with Israeli firms, following a visit here by company executives two weeks ago.

The company has annual sales of \$800m, and provides services to two million customers. PTT mainly provides Internet services and switched. During their visit, managers met representatives of various local companies, including ECI, Tadiran, RAD, Orcelit and C. Mer. As a result of the meetings, a group of Israeli businessmen will soon visit the company in Colombia.

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### "Alternative Investments - A Guide to Protecting Your Portfolio"

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Mr Goldsmith will be exploring "alternative" investments and will also demonstrate how it is possible to increase your investment return while decreasing your short term - and long term - risk.

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Japanese yen (100)	0.5798	0.5823	0.58	0.60	0.5886
Dutch guilder	2.6894	2.7125	2.62	2.75	2.7005
Swedish krona	1.7348	1.7828	1.72	1.79	1.7823
Norwegian krona	2.2942	2.3313	2.25	2.37	2.3179
Denmark krone	0.4370	0.4441	0.42	0.46	0.4589
British mark	0.5120	0.5203	0.47	0.50	0.4989
Canadian dollar	0.8504	0.8609	0.80	0.83	0.8171
Australian dollar	2.4098	2.4467	2.36	2.59	2.5355
S. African rand	2.8028	2.8443	2.55	2.89	2.8391
Belgian franc (10)	0.9465	0.9687	0.68	0.77	0.7628
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7709	2.8158	2.72	2.96	2.9148
Italian lire (1000)	1.9781	2.0111	1.94	2.06	2.0154
Jordanian dinar	4.8930	5.0000	4.68	5.00	4.8994
Egyptian pound	2.8028	3.8728	2.82	3.84	3.8552
EGP	3.8108	3.8728	3.82	4.04	4.0448
Irish punt	5.1814	5.2650	5.09	5.34	5.3470
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3122	2.3485	2.27	2.30	2.3359

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel

מזכראת התורה



ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: AMEX, NASDAQ, and various stock symbols with their respective prices and changes.

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, listing various Israeli companies like Bior Technology, B.V.R. Technology, etc.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Shares end lower after high CPI

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By DAN GERSTENFELD Shares closed lower yesterday in dull trading following the release of...

Key Representative Rates US Dollar ...NIS 3.3880 - 0.15%

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES DJ Industrials Last Change 2477.24 -28.82

NYSE STOCKS Declines Unchanged Advances 1049

OTHER MARKET INDEXES FTSE 100 Last Change 4194.16 -1.19

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US) Pound spot 1.6247 -0.0034

LONDON COMMODITIES Cocoa (May) (ICE) 1400 -14

SPOT MARKET METALS (US) Gold spot 341.35 -0.4

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES Gold (Apr) Last Change 341.35 -0.4

LONDON METAL FIXES Gold AM &E 341.45 -4.15

PARIS Actor 899 -6

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

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Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, listing various international companies like Alcatel, Alcatel-Lucent, etc.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Dow rally gives Eurobourses last-minute boost

LONDON (Reuters) - European shares got a late boost yesterday after Wall Street opened softer than...

On the currency front the dollar was mixed by late Europe trade, softer against the yen after some dollar-dampening comments...

British, German and French blue chips all took early comfort from the dramatic overnight rise in US stocks...

Paris French shares sea-sawed falling back from a morning peak of over half a percent up but staging a late, Dow influenced, recovery...

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow up 92 points

NEW YORK (AP) - Blue-chip issues rallied for the third straight session yesterday as investors shrugged off some economic data...

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 92.71 points to close at 6,679.87.

WHERE TO GO

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Museums TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Andrea Semano: The Morgue. Soviet Photography from the Museum collection. Lucian Freud: selection of works. Tzvi Hecker: Sunflower. Portraits by a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Shimon Ben-David and Amnon Ben-David. The Inverted Campaign. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center. Tel. 6191655-8.

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THE JERUSALEM POST

# Mac TA headed for sweep

Eilat no obstacle as Maccabi wins 98-77

**By ELI GRONER**  
After working hard during the second half of the season to qualify for the playoffs, it appears that Hapoel Eilat forgot that there are actual games to be played in the postseason. Maccabi Tel Aviv, in what is shaping up as its easiest playoff series since 1993, blew past Eilat on the road last night, to the tune of 98-77.

With almost no defensive resistance from the southerners, Tel Aviv jumped out of the gate and never looked back. Coach Zvi Scherf's club shifted into cruise control early, and did not have to need to step up the intensity for the rest of the night.

Eilat's defensive lethargy can best be indicated by the fact that no starter had more than three fouls the entire game.

The absence of Joe Dawson (stonk virus) - who didn't start and sat on the bench for most of the game - was felt under the boards. Maccabi grabbed ten offensive boards and converted almost all of

them into points. Eilat's lackluster defensive effort reached its low point midway through the first half, when Derrick Sharp (1.83 meters) skied over Eilat center James Forrest to grab a rebound, before finding Buck Johnson under the basket for the easy field goal.

Defensively, there weren't that many rebounds for Maccabi to grab, since approximately one third of Eilat's possessions ended in turnovers (22 overall).

The main culprit was Cory Gaines. The point guard who could have made a difference in Doron Sheffer's absence (knee injury) - was horrible, with as many turnovers as assists.

For Maccabi, Oded Katash had his second consecutive big game. Displaying confidence and consistency, Katash tallied 28 points. Randy White had 19 while Johnson and Nadav Henefeld had 16 apiece.

Amir Katz paced Eilat with 23. In action tonight, Hapoel Jerusalem hosts Maccabi Ra'anana in game 2 of the other semi-final series. Jerusalem is ahead 1-0

# Soccer youth side reaches European Championship finals

Gritty 2-0 win over Yugoslavia in Holon sees Israel through to Reykjavik tourney

**By ORI LEVINS**

Israel's youth (under-18) side recorded one of local soccer's most significant achievements ever yesterday by reaching the European Championship finals following a controlled and determined 2-0 win over Yugoslavia.

The Israelis have thus established themselves as one of the eight top sides on the continent and will play in the finals to be held in Reykjavik, Iceland in the summer.

The achievement is probably the most important for Israeli soccer since Israel qualified for the World Cup finals in Mexico 1970.

Israel required a 1-0 or 2-1 win in yesterday's return leg in Holon. They lost the first match in Ljubica, Yugoslavia 2-1 on March 26, but the two away goals gave Israel an excellent chance of wresting the advantage from the side, which together with Portugal, is considered to be the best in Europe.

Israel, who themselves are no pushovers, began the match confidently, and while their technical skills were immediately evident, almost all the Israeli players looked dwarfed by their Yugoslav opponents who were of much taller and stronger build.

The guile and skill of the Israelis turned into a tangible advantage in the 16th minute when the mercurial Yossi Benayoun, formerly of Ajax Amsterdam and now back with Hapoel Beersheba, was brought down while trying to turn in the area.

Benayoun himself took the resulting penalty, but his shot was well saved by Yugoslav goalkeeper Sjad Movatovic who dived high to his left to deflect the ball.

The subsequent 20 minutes saw the Israelis in disarray, as Benayoun, in particular, seemed to lose his composure.

But in the 36th minute Israel got the goal they so desperately seeking when Liron Wilner of Maccabi Netanya shot into the empty net from seven meters out after an excellent probing run by Maccabi Tel Aviv's Arik Hengali drew Movatovic out

towards him on the right of the area. Movatovic dived at Hengali's feet but missed the ball and the Israeli passed it comfortably to Wilner to complete the move successfully.

A fairly rough game with many yellow cards finally took its toll on the Israelis when captain Guy Tzarfat was sent off a minute before half time after picking up a second yellow card.

Coach Ze'ev Zeltzer handled the situation coolly and he beefed up the already adequate defense by replacing the diminutive Hengali with Dedi Ben-Dayan at the start of the second half.

Israel tried to get an early goal in the second period, but were soon made aware of their one-man disadvantage as the Yugoslavs mounted attack after attack.

They were superbly repelled by central defender Amos Sasi of Borussia Dortmund and goalkeeper Kobi Shalo of Hapoel Tel Aviv. Shalo, in particular, was steadfast between

the posts and the Israeli defense rallied round him to make sure he did not put a foot - or a hand - wrong.

The Israelis continued to be very much on the defensive and the Yugoslavs had an incident-packed free kick in the 65th minute which had to be retaken twice.

At the second attempt, Yugoslav's Goran Veselinovic received a red card for stamping on Israel's Ziv Kabela (Zafirim Holon) while the latter was standing in the wall. Nothing came of the free kick.

The Yugoslavs continued to dominate the midfield and towards the end they threw caution to the wind as they went for the equalizer which would have seen them through to the finals.

But in the 90th minute, Benayoun put the match out of Yugoslavia's reach when he and the excellent Kabela ran through an empty half, with Benayoun making no mistake as he slotted the ball past Moratovic, allowing the celebrations to begin in earnest.

# James sees Hawks home to stunning win over Nets

ATLANTA (AP) - Henry James, who didn't play until the fourth quarter, made seven 3-pointers as the Atlanta Hawks scored 48 points in the final period to gain a key victory in the playoff race, stunning New Jersey 109-101 Tuesday night.

The Hawks trailed 80-61 at the end of the third quarter and seemed to be finished, but James entered the game in the fourth period and brought the Hawks back with an amazing display of shooting. He tied the NBA record for 3-pointers in a quarter, set this season by teammate Steve Smith, and in a half.

Atlanta's victory gave it a one-

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division					Midwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
y-Miami	59	20	.747		z-Utah	61	18	.772	
x-New York	54	25	.684	5	x-Houston	55	25	.688	
x-Orlando	45	34	.570	14	x-Minnesota	39	40	.494	
Washington	41	38	.519	18	Dallas	23	56	.291	
New Jersey	24	55	.304	35	Denver	20	59	.253	
Philadelphia	21	58	.266	38	San Antonio	20	60	.250	
Boston	14	65	.177	45	Vancouver	13	67	.163	
Central Division					Pacific Division				
z-Chicago	60	11	.843		x-Seattle	55	25	.688	
x-Atlanta	55	24	.698	13.5	x-LA Lakers	54	25	.68	
x-Charlotte	53	26	.671	15	x-Portland	46	33	.582	
x-Detroit	52	27	.658	16	x-Phoenix	39	41	.488	
Cleveland	40	39	.506	28	x-LA Clippers	36	44	.450	
Indiana	39	40	.494	29	Sacramento	33	46	.418	
Milwaukee	32	47	.405	36	Golden State	30	50	.375	
Toronto	28	52	.350	41					

z-clincher conference title y-clinched division title x-clinched playoff berth  
Tuesday's results: Atlanta 109, New Jersey 101; Utah 127, Phoenix 122; Milwaukee 92, Toronto 85; Houston 123, LA Clippers 119; Seattle 108, San Antonio 88.



TRIBUTE TO AN INNOVATOR - President Bill Clinton speaks during a tribute to Jackie Robinson at New York's Shea Stadium as Robinson's widow, Rachel and Acting Commissioner of Major League Baseball Bud Selig look on.

# Robinson honored on 50th anniversary of breakthrough

No. 42 to be retired from Major League Baseball

NEW YORK (AP) - Fifty years after Jackie Robinson became the first black player in the major leagues, US Major League Baseball retired his number in tribute, saying No. 42 should belong to the sports pioneer "for the ages."

With President Bill Clinton and Robinson's widow, Rachel, standing at home plate, acting commissioner Bud Selig announced that baseball was retiring the number the late Hall of Famer wore throughout his career.

"The day Jackie Robinson stepped on a major league field will forever be remembered as baseball's proudest moment," Selig said. "Major league baseball is retiring No. 42 in tribute to his great achievements and for the significant contributions he made to society."

"No. 42 belongs to Jackie Robinson for the ages." No other major professional sport has honored one of its players in a similar fashion. The game between the New York Mets and Los Angeles Dodgers was halted for 35 minutes after the fifth inning as Clinton, using two canes, walked to home plate with Selig and Mrs. Robinson. He waved to the near capacity crowd and gave a thumbs-up sign as Secret Service agents ringed the field.

"It is hard to believe that it was 50 years ago at Ebbets Field that a 28-year-old rookie changed the face of baseball and the face of America forever," he said. "Jackie Robinson scored the go-ahead run that day and we've all been trying to catch up ever since."

In that first game some 15 miles away, Robinson played for the Brooklyn Dodgers, who later became the Los Angeles team. With players from both teams standing in front of their dugouts, Clinton saluted Robinson's contribution to his game and his country.

# Liverpool spurn chance to go top

LONDON (Reuters) - Liverpool missed a golden chance to go top of the English premier league last night when they were held to a 1-1 draw by arch-rivals Everton.

Liverpool leap-frogged Arsenal to move into second place but are now two points behind leaders Manchester United having played a game more.

A victory with a two-goal margin would have put them above United but sloppy finishing in front of goal let them down.

Newcastle moved above Aston Villa into fourth place with a 3-1 demolition of FA Cup finalists Chelsea. Alan Shearer scored a goal either side of Faustino Asprilla's strike. Craig Burley hit a consolation for the visitors.

Chelsea dropped a place, switching with Wimbledon after the Dons beat Leeds 2-0 to go seventh. Dean Holdsworth and Stewart Castledine did the damage at Selhurst Park.

At Goodison Park, England midfielder Jamie Redknapp opened the scoring after 26 minutes following a slick move by Liverpool.

Robbie Fowler split the Everton defence with a measured pass to England team mate Steve McManaman. The winger slid the ball across goal and Redknapp held off Claus Thomsen to poke the ball

beyond Neville Southall for 1-0. Everton showed plenty of fight and after 42 minutes Thomsen almost levelled, David James having to react quickly to push his stinging 20-meter drive behind.

The normally lethal Fowler spurned a great chance to stretch Liverpool's lead on the stroke of halftime when he took a perfectly-weighted chip from McManaman only to scrape his shot wide.

Everton started the brighter in the second half and got their reward in the 65th minute.

A wayward header from defender Steve Harkness landed at Duncan Ferguson's feet and the Scotland striker, with his back to goal on the edge of the penalty area, turned Mark Wright and curled a left-foot shot past James.

Southall had to be at his sharpest to block a Redknapp shot three minutes later but could only watch as Fowler rapped the ball with a header seconds afterwards. Fowler again hit the woodwork, this time the post, with a left-foot shot from 18 meters.

Eight minutes from the end Fowler and Everton defender David Unsworth were sent off for brawling.

Manchester United now visit Anfield on Saturday and Liverpool dare not slip up again.

# UEFA: Germany or England should dump conflicting bids

GENEVA (AP) - European soccer's governing body hopes to talk Germany and England out of a bitter and expensive bidding war for the 2006 World Cup when the UEFA executive board meets Thursday with both delegations.

Both countries are vying for UEFA's support of their bids to host soccer's showcase event, which will eventually be awarded by the world governing body FIFA.

UEFA, which originally endorsed the German bid but later agreed to consider England's candidacy as well, plans to back only one bid.

Today's meeting, bringing together five-member delegations from each side, will be heavy with diplomacy and light on the technical merits of the rival bids, said UEFA spokesman Fritz Ahlstrom.

"We want to sit down with the two and see if we can avoid the kind of bidding war like the one between Japan and South Korea," Ahlstrom said.

The German delegation is headed by Egidius Braun, president of the German Football Association, and includes former World Cup star and manager Franz Beckenbauer. The England delegation is headed by Football Association president Keith Winstanley.

The 2002 World Cup was eventually awarded jointly to Asian rivals South Korea and Japan when FIFA was unable to find any other solution. But FIFA has since ruled out another joint World Cup.

"We definitely will endorse just one bid," Ahlstrom said. "We want to do this as early as possible to give the European bidder a chance and to avoid both side spending huge sums of money." Ahlstrom said the decision on which bid to support would come before the end of the year. Strong bids are also expected from Africa and South America and there is no guarantee the event will be in Europe.

"We are trying to work for cooperation here and see where both sides stand," Ahlstrom said.

Two months ago, shortly before officially announcing its candidature, England was angered to learn that UEFA had already given its support to the Germans. Germany first announced its bid in 1993.

After talks with English soccer officials, UEFA reversed its position and allowed England to offer a bid.

The deadline for bids is 1999, with FIFA selecting the host country in June of the year 2000. South Africa, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt and Morocco are among those expected to submit bids.

FIFA has said that even if UEFA endorses Germany's bid, there is nothing to stop England from submitting its own candidacy directly to the world body.

# Olympiakos guard tests positive, may miss Final Four

ATHENS (AP) - Evric Gray, Olympiakos's American guard, will probably miss European Final Four basketball championship and may be benched for three months after testing positive for a banned substance, team officials said yesterday.

Olympiakos coach Dusan Ivkovic said Gray had tested positive for ephedrine, a stimulant, and would be kept off the court until a second test on his sample was conducted by FIBA, the International Basketball Association.

"We have decided not to use Gray until the results of the second test are made known," Ivkovic told reporters.

His remark came a week before Olympiakos left for Rome to compete in the championship to be held from April 22 to 24.

Gray was tested earlier this season as part of a European League quarter final game with Panathinaikos of Athens.

Gray has reportedly contested the results, saying he was taking over-the-counter vitamins sold in the United States to relieve his nasal congestion. He identified the vitamins as "Up the Gas."

Ephedrine is used to relieve nasal congestion and asthma.

Under FIBA regulations, if his second sample tests positive he could be kept off court for three months.

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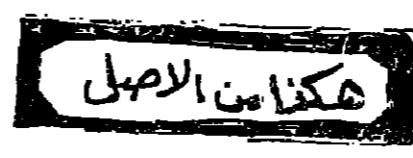
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# NEWS

in brief

## Yosef Burg, Wiesel named to Swiss fund

Elder statesman Yosef Burg and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel were named yesterday as members of a seven-member board to run the Swiss fund for Holocaust victims.

The Swiss government said that the president of the body would be Rolf Bloch, president of the Swiss Federation of Hebrew Congregations.

The full membership is subject to final approval from the World Jewish Restitution Organization.

Under the fund's March 1 bylaws, the Jewish organization had to nominate three board members, and the Swiss cabinet had to appoint four Swiss people, including the president of the board. AP

## Court: No tax discount for city workers

Municipalities are not allowed to give their workers a discount on municipal taxes (arnona), even if this is considered a salary benefit and income tax is paid on it, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday. The court was responding to a petition filed by Holon City Councilman Emil Manor against the city, which gave its workers a 10.5 percent discount. He contended this violated the law, and the court upheld him. *Tim*

## Hadassah doctors continue sanctions

Only emergency surgery will be performed today at the two Hadassah-University Hospitals in Jerusalem due to continuing sanctions by doctors. The 700 doctors are protesting against management's cancellation of their collective agreement as part of a painful recovery program to resolve the Hadassah Medical Organization's NIS 187 million deficit.

Meanwhile, lawyers representing the union and management are trying to find wording that would allow a freeze in management's plans, rather than the "suspension" demanded by the doctors, and "cancellation" carried out by management. *Judy Siegel*

## Nursing staff to be boosted

Some 2,800 nurses' jobs will be added to the public hospitals over the next five years, according to an agreement to be signed by Health Minister Yehoshua Matza on Sunday.

After 18 months of negotiations, the government and the employers agreed to the additional job slots to meet the growing needs of patients. It was also agreed that the workload of nurses will be set according to the number of hospital beds and the hospital's ambulatory services. The agreement includes not only government hospitals, but those owned by Kupat Holim Clalit and the Hadassah Medical Organization. *Judy Siegel*

## Two indicted for employing child prostitute

Maxim Sakharov, 19, and Avraham Ya'acobov, 23, were indicted in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday on charges of rape, soliciting prostitution, and procuring. They are thought to be the two main figures in the case of 12-year-old Rishon Lezion girl working as a prostitute that recently came to light. *Tim*

## First international horse-riding tourney here

The Therapeutic Riding Club of Israel will hold its first international dressage competition at Moshav Beit Yehoshua this morning. Disabled students from Britain, Greece and Italy will take part in the event, which is being held simultaneously with the Israeli national dressage championships.

Established in 1986, The Therapeutic Riding Club of Israel is a non-profit organization that provides lessons to more than 350 disabled students, many of whom are wounded IDF soldiers. *Jerusalem Post Staff*



Businessman Nahum Manbar is brought out of Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court after his remand hearing yesterday. (Israel Sun)

# Manbar brought to court

## Arms dealer suspected of security offenses

By RAINE MARCUS

International businessman and arms dealer Nahum Manbar, who disappeared three weeks ago, is in police custody on suspicion of committing serious security offenses, it was revealed yesterday in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, when Judge Dan Arbel partially lifted the publication ban on the case.

Manbar was brought under heavy guard to the court yesterday morning for a remand hearing, held behind closed doors.

Arbel, who allowed the arrest but not other details to be published in response to requests from journalists, extended Manbar's remand for a further nine days.

Manbar, who was born on Kibbutz Givat Haim Me'uhad, lived in France for the past several years and moved to Switzerland recently.

Arbel said Manbar is suspected of "extremely grave charges, which if proved, carry with them a very long sentence."

Manbar has admitted to selling weapons to Iran in the past. However, in a 1995 interview, Manbar said that since 1992 he had not conducted any business dealings with Iran and any transactions were carried out with full knowledge of the Defense Ministry.

He maintained that he had sold only tanks and other weaponry to Iran, and had not dealt in chemical

warfare, contrary to reports.

In 1994, the US placed Manbar on a business "black list" due to his violation of the trade embargo on Iran, and barred him from entering the US.

In Israel, Manbar was banned by the Defense Ministry from all kinds of security and arms dealing because of his transactions with Iran.

His disappearance was noted last week, when he was supposed to arrive for a Hapoel Jerusalem basketball final. He is the team's main sponsor and members thought his disappearance was strange.

Manbar was reported missing after he boarded a plane from Lugano to Milan, Italy on March

27, together with his wife, Francine. From there he flew to Rome, where he boarded a plane to Ben-Gurion Airport.

In his ruling yesterday, Arbel said Manbar's case was most complex and did not only involve Israel alone, but spread to other countries. "If released," said Arbel, "he is likely to flee the country, suborn witnesses and destroy documents in various places around the world."

MK Ran Cohen, chairman of the Knesset House Committee, said the committee will convene soon to discuss the possible knowledge of the Defense Ministry of Manbar's arms dealings, involving the sale of Israeli weapons to Iran.

**WEATHER**

Haifa 9-18  
Tiberias 8-22  
Ahlat 6-20  
Samarra 6-17  
Tel Aviv 10-18  
Jerusalem 5-18  
Beersheba 5-21  
Dead Sea 12-20  
Eilat 13-27

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear, rise in temperatures.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

City	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	8	11	partly
Berlin	6	10	partly
Brussels	7	11	partly
Geneva	7	11	partly
London	7	11	partly
Madrid	10	15	partly
Moscow	5	10	partly
New York	6	10	partly
Paris	7	11	partly
Tel Aviv	10	18	partly
Jerusalem	5	18	partly
Beersheba	5	21	partly
Eilat	13	27	partly

# Desperate burial society workers bring corpse to city council meeting

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The body of an unidentified elderly woman was finally buried late Tuesday night in Rosh Ha'ayin, but only after burial society workers had earlier brought it into a City Council meeting and said they would not bury it until they received their three months' back pay.

The workers were finally paid yesterday, but Religious Affairs Ministry Director-General Avi Blustein demanded that those responsible be immediately suspended and Sefardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron said they should be fired. Blustein threatened to replace local religious council head Menashe Madmoni if he does not suspend the workers.

The workers, who had already undertaken go slow tactics in an effort to receive their salaries, which had not been paid for three

months, brought the body in on a stretcher, covered in a cloth with a Magen David.

At first several members of the council refused to believe that what was lying in front of them was really a body. Then the burial society uncovered one of the woman's hands.

Madmoni said the action decision to bring the body to the council was taken by the workers' committee of the local religious council, of which the burial society workers are a part.

Yesterday, Rosh Ha'ayin Mayor Yigal Yosef and members of the City Council went to Jerusalem to discuss the town's financial crisis. He said that in recent years the town has tripled in population, but the local budget had not kept pace.

He condemned the workers' action, but said that those ultimately responsible were the

government ministries.

On Tuesday, after the incident, the Religious Affairs Ministry transferred NIS 250,000, it's part of the burial society workers' salaries, to the municipality. The remaining NIS 500,000 was paid by the Interior Ministry yesterday.

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau said that burial society workers should not be permitted to delay a burial, just as police, security, and medical workers should not be allowed to strike.

However, he also noted the rabbinical precept that you should not judge your fellow until you have stood in his place, and said he could try to understand the desperation of workers who saw no sign of being paid as Passah approached. Just as it is forbidden to delay burying the dead, it is forbidden to delay paying a workman, Lau said.

## Survey will identify pupils with learning disabilities

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

A survey to identify pupils with learning disabilities is to be launched in the coming months by the Education Ministry, ministry Director-General Bezion Dell has decided.

The survey is designed to give the ministry more than just an estimate of how many such pupils there are in the country, instead of just the rough estimate of 3-10 percent it has now.

Dell said the move is part of a decision by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer to give priority to helping such youngsters in the coming years.

The survey is also designed to help the panel of experts headed by Prof. Malka Margalit that is examining ways to fully exploit such pupils' potential.

The ministry is also reviewing the tools at its disposal to deal with such pupils, and to widen the scope of special courses for teachers on the subject.

Dell said that in recent years, parents and teachers have become increasingly aware that children with learning disabilities can make progress within regular school frameworks, and must be given a greater chance and the facilities to do so. In spite of this, he added, many parents do not know how to help children suffering from such problems, and pupils often do not know how to treat classmates with learning disabilities.

A spokeswoman for Nitzan, the Center for the Advancement of Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities, said in response that Nitzan was "happy about the decision" and it was about time such a survey was conducted.

She believed the decision was an outgrowth of the group's opposition to changes proposed by the ministry at the beginning of the school year in the way such pupils are evaluated which Nitzan found were unfair, and added that Nitzan would "closely monitor" how the new survey is carried out.

## Study: Women more resilient to hearing loss from blast

By JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem doctors are scratching their heads over the fact that women suffering from auditory-nerve damage due to explosions are much more likely to recover their hearing than men.

Dr. Ronnie Perez, of the ear-nose-and-throat department of Shaare Zedek Hospital, examined 57 people wounded in two Jerusalem bus bomb attacks in the past 20 months. Among 40 of the patients (71%), a tangible decline in hearing due to damage to the auditory nerve was detected - the result of the noise and force of the blast.

Perez analyzed the damage according to how far the victims were from the center of the explosion. Those who were on the buses suffered the most harm, while those who were in nearby buses or cars suffered less. None had been rendered totally deaf, Perez said. He then followed up 25 of the 40

who had suffered a decline in hearing. At the end of six months, only a quarter were able to hear better (at 20 decibels) - and all of these were women, making the finding statistically significant.

Such a gender difference in recovering from trauma to the auditory nerve was unknown in the medical literature and came as a complete surprise to the researchers. A clinical study in which the hearing of such a large number of victims is tested so soon after a blast is unique in the medical literature, the doctor said.

Perez's study was quoted in the hospital's *Sha'ar Pataah* newsletter and is slated to be published in a medical journal abroad. The findings will also be presented at a national ear-nose-and-throat conference in May.

Perez hypothesized that the fact that only the women's hearing improved could be due to physiological differences in the inner ears of men and women.

## Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's Chance game were the eight of spades, seven of hearts, eight of diamonds and seven of clubs.

## Two held for smuggling 24 kg of gold

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Customs officials at Ben-Gurion Airport caught two women trying to smuggle 24 kg. of gold into the country on Tuesday night.

The customs service said yesterday it had pinpointed the women as the result of intelligence received by airport police. The two women tried to go through the green channel at the airport, with nothing to declare.

Both women are residents of the Mea She'arim quarter in Jerusalem, customs said. Each had a special vest under their dresses to carry the precious metal.

On Tuesday night they were brought for questioning to the customs offices in Jerusalem. The investigation revealed that they had left the country that morning on a flight to Brussels, returning after only a few hours with the gold.

They said they had carried out similar smuggling activities in the past and had been paid \$600 each time. One of the women said this was her major source of income, customs said.

## Officer held for sexual abuse of girls

By DAVID RUDGE

Robert Segal-David, 25, of Haifa, an academic officer in the IDF, was remanded for five days by Haifa Magistrate's Court yesterday on suspicion of sexually abusing five girls aged between 11 and 18. In at least two cases, he took nude and provocative pictures of them.

According to the allegations, he met the girls on buses and claimed to be representing a model agency and took their telephone numbers.

"He asked the young girls to appear in revealing clothes in a public place, where they would be examined and their modeling potential assessed," said Supt. Nitzza Cohen, head of the Haifa district juvenile department. "He took pictures of two of them, saying that they would be used in an exhibition at the Israel Museum."

She added there may be other cases of which the police were not aware, and anyone with information should call the juvenile department.

**PSAGOT GLOBE, PSAGOT CHUL and PSAGOT LIMIT**

Notice of change in the set time for placing orders or redemption instructions on the intermediate days of Passover

Notice is hereby given that on the intermediate days of Passover, namely from April 23rd, 1997 until April 24, 1997, the set time for placing buying orders or redemption instructions of or for the units for the above funds, will be advanced to 12:45 instead of 14:00 due to the curtailed working hours during those days on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Fund Manager  
Psagot Managers of Mutual Funds, Leumi Igud Ltd.

**THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM**

Will be closed for the Passover holiday

From Monday, April 21, through Monday, April 28, 1997

The University extends its holiday greetings to its students, staff, alumni, retirees, friends organizations and all the people of Israel.

The facilities of the Cosell Center for Physical Education, Leisure and Health Promotion will be open during this period; the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Rishon Lezion will be open for emergencies only.

**sano**

**CORRECTION!**

**The Sano 1997 Cleaning, Maintenance & Care Guide**

will not appear on Friday, April 18, 1997.

Look for the guide on Friday, May 2, 1997

הכרזת ארבעים